Tanong ng Bayan / A24

**OCWs in Iraq: Dapat bang alisin na ang ban?**

WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

■ Sports / A25

**Big day for Filipino chessers; Paragua zeroes in on crown**

■ Metro / A23

**CCP marks 35th anniversary today**

■ News / A3

**Small bank declares holiday**

■ 2bU! / C1

**Diary of a Pinay Peace Corps volunteer**

## Not a question of austerity but a matter of quality time

"QUALITY time" for the family. Who would begrudge anyone that?

And so President Macapagal-Arroyo invoked the basic human right in defending her decision to bring the whole

NOT/A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## After surgery, Clinton tells Kerry how to beat Bush

NEW YORK—Former US President Bill Clinton again showed his unerring instinct for stealing the political spotlight—even when ailing in a hospital.

Clinton's successful open-heart surgery Monday dominated US media coverage on the Labor Day holiday, stealing the thunder from Democratic White House hopeful Sen.

AFTER/A10

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, September 8, 2004 ★★ ~~58~~ 54 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 273 P18 website: www.inq7.net

# GMA vows to take on 'vested interests'

## *Smugglers, tax evaders, coup plotters warned*

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

**SAYING she did not mind becoming unpopular, President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed yesterday to take on all vested interests that would get in the way of her fiscal reforms and anticorruption campaign.**

"Let there be no mistake: I will move this nation forward and I will take on whatever vested interests stand in my way," the President said at a breakfast forum of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

Asked who the vested interests were, Ms Arroyo said: "All sides right to left, ... I don't have to name them, including destabilizers."

When the forum host inquired if these included coup plotters, smugglers and tax evaders, she said: "You mentioned them, all of them, yes."

Partly due to tax evasion and smuggling, tax collection fell to 12.5 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 from 17 percent in 1997. It is estimated that the country is losing P175 billion yearly to technical (undervaluation of imports) and outright smuggling.

The falling tax effort has forced the government to engage in a borrowing binge to finance its expenditures, resulting in an ever growing public sector deficit and debt.

The public sector deficit over the past seven years has reached P968.65 billion, while the debt has ballooned to P5.3 trillion as of September 2003.

Eleven economists from the University of the Philippines had warned that the Philippines could face economic collapse in two to three years if the government did not rein in the public sector deficit and debt.

GMA VOWS/ A22

**A TOUGH-TALKING** President Macapagal-Arroyo tells members of the Manila Overseas Press Club that she means business in her campaign to "move this nation forward." VAL HANDUMON

## Solon hits Pagcor-Stanley Ho tieup

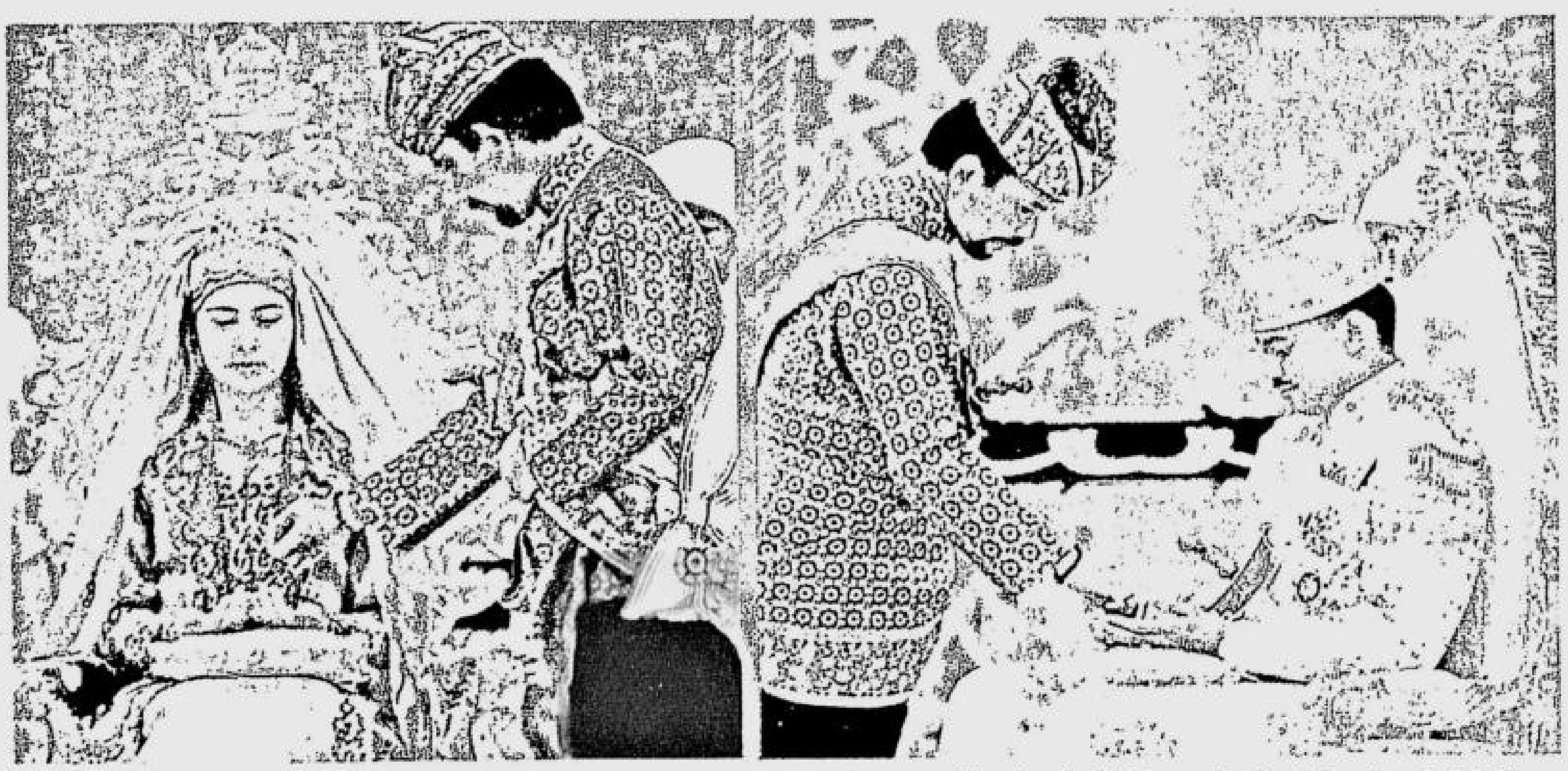
**By Carlito Pablo**

SUSPECTED associates of Macau casino magnate Stanley Ho have gained a foothold in the local gambling scene with the knowledge and approval of the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., according to a lawmaker.

In a privilege speech he delivered on Monday, Rep. Catalino Figueroa (Lakas, Samar) said "even industries catering to our vices are being taken over by foreigners." He added: "A group of notorious characters, strongly identified [with] and obviously using the name of Mr. Stanley Ho ... is now moving steadily and forcefully into controlling the casino and other gambling operations in our country."

Figueroa said a certain Jack Lin, also known as Lin Wei Cheng, "quietly

SOLON HITS/ A22



**AT HIS** gilded palace, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah performs a traditional pre-wedding ritual with Dayangku Sarah Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahaman (left) and his son, Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah. The young couple are scheduled to marry tomorrow. REUTERS

## One of Asia's grandest weddings ...

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—It is shaping up to be Asia's grandest in years.

Brunei was rolling out the red carpet yesterday for royals and government leaders attending the wedding of the heir to the throne of the oil-rich Southeast Asian sultanate.

Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Bolkiah, 30, will marry commoner Sarah Salleh, 17, tomorrow at the royal palace in ceremonies showcasing centuries of Bruneian tradition.

A spectacular procession around this usually sleepy capital will follow the wedding, palace aides told Agence France-Presse.

The father of the groom, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, was once reputed to be the world's richest man.

Bahrain's King Hamad, Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and other royals will join an impressive array of heads of government from Brunei's immediate Southeast Asian neighbors who will begin arriving today.

The guest list includes Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo, Indonesian President

ONE/A11

## Malacañang seeks supplemental budget for Napocor

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will seek a supplemental budget because the proposed 2005 General Appropriations Act submitted by Malacañang to Congress does not contain the 37-percent interest expense of National Power Corp. (Napocor).

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio admitted this yesterday at the hearing of the Senate ways and means committee, saying the proposed budget of P907.1 billion next year was pegged to the capacity of the government to increase revenues to P758 billion "plus a little borrowing."

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascua said: "We are submitting expenditures that can be funded by existing taxes."

Pascua told the committee that the supplemental budget would be submitted after Congress approved the "core" budget.

"We know that we have very low capital expenditures, so apart from paying the interest expense for the debt of Napocor that will be assumed by the national government, the supplemental budget will be largely for capex (capital expenditures such as infrastructure)," Osorio said.

"The P758 billion would not include the P80 billion in new taxes," said Osorio, who stressed that the supplemental budget would be funded by the eight additional taxes proposed by Malacañang to Congress.

"Oh, yes, that can be explained," she said when asked by Sen. Mar Roxas where the P80 billion would go.

Osorio told the senators that besides the interest expense of Napocor, the rest of the supplemental budget would go to unprogrammed expenses.

This prompted Sen. Ralph Recto, committee chair, to confront Osorio because 20 percent of the unprogrammed expenses would go to government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) in the form of subsidies, equity

MALACAÑANG/ A22

### THE ASSASSINS OF ABRA

## 'Just like killing chicken'

**By Artha Kira Paredes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

*(First of three parts)*

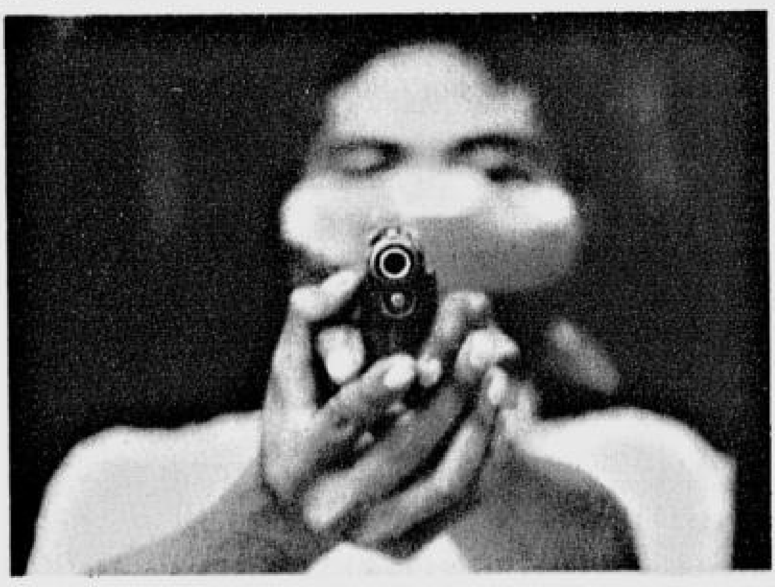
**SPECIAL REPORT**

*Editor's Note: Citing security concerns, the people who talked to the* INQUIRER *for this special report requested that their true identities not be revealed and they be identified only by pseudonyms. They allowed the* INQUIRER's *Abra correspondent Artha Kira Paredes and photographer EV Espiritu to interview them and take their photographs in a training site in a remote village somewhere in Abra, more than 50 km from the capital town of Bangued. The* INQUIRER *team reached the site after almost a day of traveling on a passenger jeepney along rugged roads, hiking through bamboo-lined villages and crossing a river and a stream.*

BANGUED, Abra—At 18, Julius has already killed two people.

He was 10 when his father, a member of a private or partisan armed group (PAG) working for a politician in Abra, was gunned down by a goon of a rival politician while on his way home in 1996.

JUST LIKE/ A4



EV ESPIRITU/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**MEMBERS** of private armed groups in Abra think killing is no big deal. One says that after a number of hits, you get used to it.

## Church group formed to fight gov't corruption

**By Bernadette A. Parco**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—While other groups are donating money and jewelry to help the government weather the fiscal crisis, a Church-backed organization here will focus its energies on how to fight graft and corruption.

"Ours is a movement that will try to awaken the sleeping giant, the Church," Fr. Carmelo Diola, vice chair of Barug Pilipino (Stand Up Filipino), told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the group would "partner with the Office of the Ombudsman" and monitor the procurement processes of government agen-

CHURCH/ A4

# *Second* FRONTPAGE

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon will experience occasional rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/08/04

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Cloudy with Rains | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Baguio** | Occasional Rains | **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cebu** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Laoag** | Occasional Rains | **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Clark Zone** | Cloudy with Rains | **Gen. Santos** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Tagaytay** | Cloudy with Rains | **Zamboanga** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cagayan de Oro** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Calapan** | Cloudy with Rains | **Davao** | Partly Cloudy |

# Junk Cabinet appointments, opposition senators ask SC

By Philip C. Tubeza

**OPPOSITION senators asked the Supreme Court yesterday to nullify President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of nine secretaries to her Cabinet, claiming that this was unconstitutional.**

Led by Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, they asked the high tribunal to stop the "acting secretaries" from performing their duties.

In their petition, the opposition senators said that the secretaries had taken their oaths of office before being confirmed by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Until they get the nod of the CA, the appointees are merely deemed nominated and cannot take the oath, much less perform the duties of their office, they said.

They said that appointments of heads of departments while Congress was in session can be made only after the CA's consent.

Asked for comment, deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the opposition legislators were "free to undertake such actions."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye earlier said the President's action had precedents in past administrations.

He said there had been no problems before when Cabinet appointees were allowed to take over in an acting capacity while they awaited CA confirmation.

The nine Cabinet members were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Florencio Abad (education), Avelino Cruz (defense), Michael Defensor (environment and natural resources), Joseph Durano ( tourism), Raul Gonzalez (justice), Alberto Romulo (foreign affairs), Rene Villa (agrarian reform) and Arthur Yap (agriculture).

According to Pimentel, Cabinet members appointed while Congress was in session and assuming office without being confirmed by the CA, "may be held liable for usurpation of authority."

He said the President, by authorizing the newly appointed Cabinet members to perform the functions of their respective offices, was "guilty of a serious breach of the Constitution."

PIMENTEL

By extending acting appointments to her new Cabinet members, the President "not only ignored the clear wording of (the Constitution) but also shows an utter lack of respect" for the CA, they said.

They said a nominee needing CA confirmation could not be appointed in an acting capacity merely to fill a vacancy. They said a vacancy in the office of a department secretary may be filled with the designation of an undersecretary.

If acting appointments were to be allowed, a President could appoint an secretary for a number of years, renewing it every year, without ever having to submit the acting appointment to the CA for confirmation, the petitioners said.

"If we do not challenge this attitude of trivializing the provisions of the Constitution, we run the risk of diminishing that respect for the fundamental law that is so vital if it is to continue meriting its value as the repository of the basic rights and liberties of our people," they said.

"The President and her subordinates in the executive department apparently suffer from a propensity to do legal shortcuts in their efforts to solve the problems afflicting the nation," they said.

Aside from Pimentel, those who signed the petition were opposition Senators Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Jinggoy Estrada, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal and Sergio Osmeña III.

# GMA, lawmakers named in report defend pork barrel

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she agreed with the public's perception that the congressional pork barrel was tainted with graft.

The President recalled that when she was a senator herself, she had access to pork barrel, then known as the Countrywide Development Fund.

"It is not a corrupt system per se but any institution can be made corrupt by the people who deal with it," Ms Arroyo said.

She said that one of the reasons she was popular with town mayors was that she turned over her entire CDF to them.

"It never came with the *kontratistas* (contractors)," said the President, who was a senator in 1992 before she ran for vice president in 1998.

The pork barrel, known as the Priority Assistance Development Fund, is allocated for the pet projects of legislators, many of whom allegedly use them to make money from the bribes and commissions from the private contractors of the projects.

Various congressmen who were identified in a recent Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism report as having disbursed their pork barrel funds to their own relatives who happened to be local officials yesterday defended the practice.

In Iloilo City, former Iloilo Rep. Oscar Garin Sr. insisted that there was nothing irregular with his channeling his pork barrel funds to his hometown, Guimbal, where his son Oscar "Richard," Jr. was the mayor.

He said it hastened the release of funds to projects in the seven towns in his district, not to Guimbal alone.

The PCIJ report identified Garin as among the 16 congressmen in the 12th Congress who had released their pork barrel funds to relatives who were mayors in their districts.

Garin released P4 million to Guimbal in 2001 and P15 million in 2002, according to the PCIJ report.

The former congressman, who was defeated in the gubernatorial race in Iloilo in the last election, said he chose to channel the funds through Guimbal because mayors in his district who were his political enemies made it hard for barangay captains, who were identified as his supporters, to access the funds.

In Dagupan City, Pangasinan Rep. Arthur Celeste said there was "nothing wrong" with his "depositing" his PDAF allocation in the municipality of Bolinao, where his brother was the mayor.

Celeste said the Bolinao government, under his older brother, former Mayor Jesus Celeste, only served as a conduit for the funds which were used to finance different projects in Pangasinan's first district in 2002.*Juliet Labog-Javellana, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Sabaya's sister kept ransom, cops claim

By Philip C. Tubeza and Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Satra Abdulaup Tilao, the younger sister of slain Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, "is the key to Sabaya's hidden wealth," said police authorities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

According to ARRM Chief Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, Tilao served as a ransom negotiator-collector on behalf of the Abu Sayyaf. She was also the custodian of Sabaya's share of the loot.

Tilao, 40, who was arrested in Basilan on Friday could have gotten millions of pesos from the ransom payments, Ikbala said.

Ricardo Cabaron, deputy prosecutor for Western Mindanao, said that despite her denials, the government had overwhelming evidence against Tilao.

"She (Tilao) conspired with the Abu Sayyaf and negotiated for ransom, especially in the release of the hostages, so we are going to prosecute her like we did the others," Cabaron said.

On Monday, former Abu Sayyaf hostage Angelica Montealegre positively identified Tilao during a press conference at the Department of Justice.

Montealegre said Tilao even demanded an additional P150,000 for her release in November 2001.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez presented Tilao and another Abu Sayyaf bandit, Ibnomalik Ismael, to the media.

They both face 20 counts of kidnapping with serious illegal detention and ransom charges for the kidnapping of tourists from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan in May 2001.*With reports from Charlie C. Senase and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# US envoy comes a-calling

By Philip C. Tubeza

IN AN apparent bid to mend fences, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone visited the Department of Justice yesterday for a "strategic conversation" with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on how to improve the United States legal relationship with the Philippines.

Ricciardone's call came on the heels of Gonzalez's tit-for-tat instructions to his subordinates last week to make it difficult for the US to extradite wanted suspects from the Philippines, following a California court's denial of a Philippine petition to have American Rod Lauren extradited back to the country.

Strunk is the principal suspect in the 2001 killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca.

"We talked about how to cooperate and how we could make the rule of law stronger in both countries and what we could do to improve extradition proceedings in big picture things," Ricciardone said in an interview as he emerged from the DOJ.

"I came to pay my respects and pledge my support," he added.

Gonzalez said he had told Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño "to make it difficult" for the US to get back wanted persons from the Philippines "because they are making it difficult for us to extradite (persons) we want".

Asked about the Strunk case, Riccardone said he was not aware of specific cases and that it was up to the prosecutors and courts in both countries to work on them.

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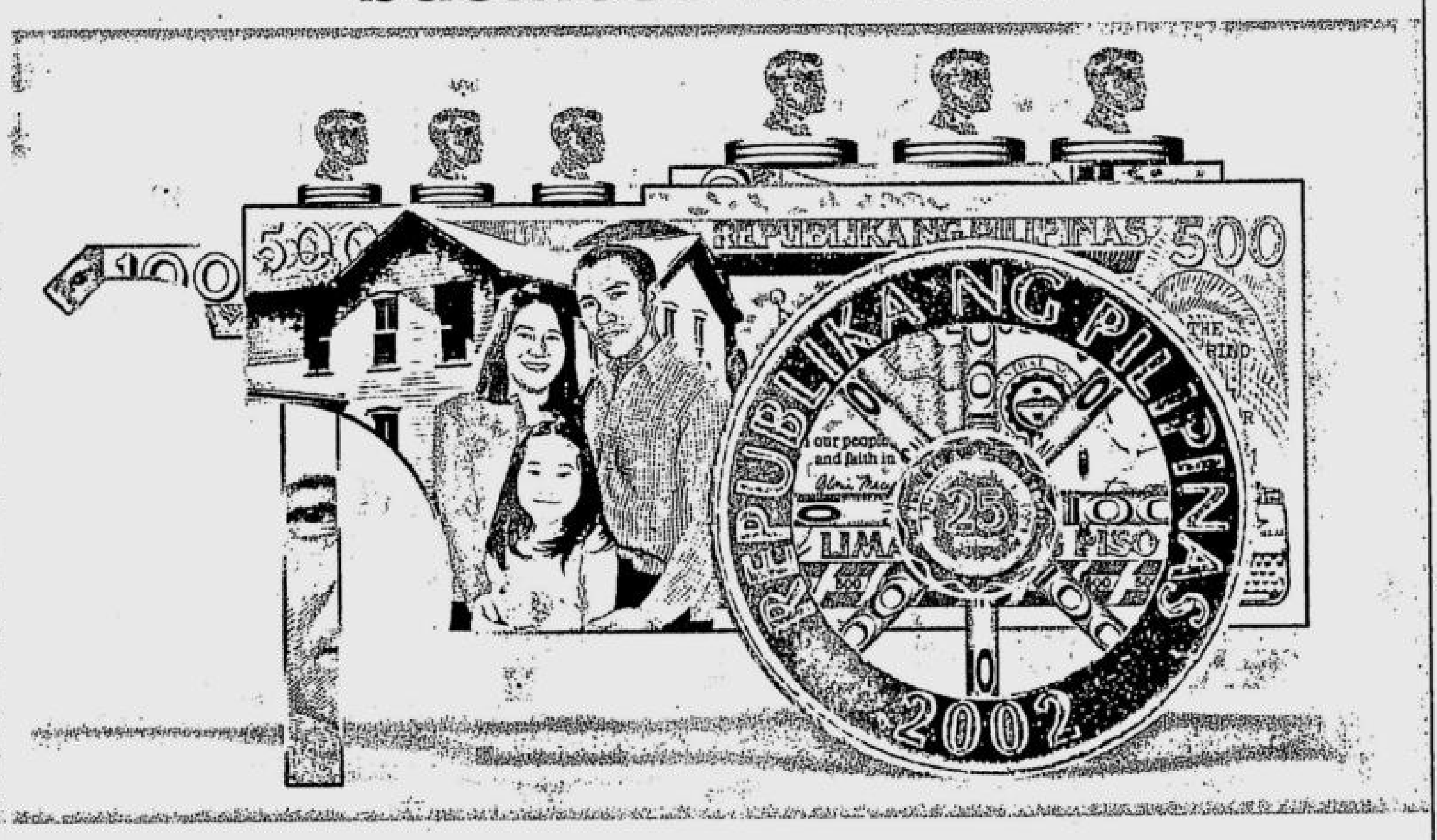

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# Small savings bank declares holiday

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

FIRST Savings Bank, a small bank owned by the Yujuico family, yesterday suspended operations following a spate of heavy withdrawals.

According to Alberto Reyes, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officer-in-charge, First Savings officials declared a bank holiday as of 5.30 p.m. yesterday.

The BSP yesterday deployed examiners to determine whether or not to permanently shut down the bank, or if it was still viable for rehabilitation.

The bank holiday was declared only a few hours after Reyes said there was "no cause for concern because this is a very isolated case."

Reyes said the bank was "very small," with total deposit liabilities of only P193 million.

"It's not even 0.05 percent of the total banking system," Reyes said.

But that assurance did not convince scores of depositors who crowded its Divisoria branch demanding to withdraw their deposits.

The bank, which caters to retail clients, has a depositor base of 10,000, according to banking sources.

First Savings officials reportedly went to the BSP a few months ago to assure banking authorities that a new investor group was buying into the bank. But the deal reportedly did not push through.

Based on its statement of financial condition as of June this year, First Savings Bank had P213.47 million worth of assets against P215.58 million worth of liabilities.

The Yujuico family, which used to own the defunct bus line Yujuico Transit, holds 88 percent of the bank. The remaining 12 percent is owned by the Bautista family group and board member Ricardo Ledesma.

According to the BSP profile on First Savings, the bank chair is Brendon Yujuico.

The bank's unnamed principal stockholder, said to be the family patriarch, reportedly died recently, resulting in a vacuum in the shareholder base.

There is also a vacuum in the bank's management. Bank staff members said its president, Maria Paz Diokno, resigned last month and no replacement has been named since then.

The INQUIRER yesterday tried to reach the bank's head office but none of the bank officials was available for comment. Bank staff members who answered phone calls said their superiors were either absent or in a meeting.

To head off a bank disaster, the BSP can either shut down First Savings if it is found to be insolvent and if the liabilities exceed the assets, or extend emergency financial assistance if the bank is still viable.

"We are now waiting for the report of the (BSP) examiners who went to the (bank) branches," Reyes said. The report was expected to be submitted last night.

The bank has branches in Divisoria, Cubao and Tanay. Its head office is located at 284 E. Rodriguez Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City.

Reyes said that the BSP would base their decision on the examiners' report.

BSP data shows that the thrift bank has an authorized capital stock of P50 million and outstanding common shares of 500,000 with a par value of P100 per share. Its outstanding common stock is worth P49.19 million.

**ELEVEN Filipino fishermen who were charged with sea piracy in Papua New Guinea arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday after the Philippine government worked for their release. The 11 were part of the 150 Filipino seamen who commandeered 15 fishing boats in the southwestern Pacific country and held them while demanding higher wages from their employers. With them is lawyer Herminio Belarmino (2nd from left), legal attache at the Philippine Embassy in Papua New Guinea.** ROGER MARGALLO

# Senate votes to postpone ARMM polls

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

VOTING 18-1, the Senate yesterday approved on third reading a bill that would defer for the sixth time the holding of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In the approved bill, the ARMM election scheduled for Sept. 13 this year was moved to the second Monday of September next year.

The bill also set succeeding ARMM regular elections to be held every second Monday of September every three years thereafter.

Because of the change in the election date, the bill designated all incumbent officials elected in the first regular election to remain in office in holdover capacity until their successors shall have been installed at noon of Sept. 30, 2005.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, said the senators sought the postponement of the ARMM elections because there was no budget for it given that the government was operating under the reenacted 2003 national budget.

Likewise, he said, by postponing the election, this would give the Commission on Elections time to ensure that next year's polls would be automated.

The only senator to oppose the bill presented by the committee on constitutional amendments was Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Gordon said Enrile opposed the measure because the ARMM election had already been postponed five times.

The election was postponed in 1996, 1999 and three times in 2001, he said.

# DepEd scrambles to find room for one more usec

**By Dona Pazzibugan**

EDUCATION officials are at their wit's end trying to find room for the President's adviser for education, Mona Valisno, who has been appointed as the Department of Education's sixth undersecretary by Malacañang.

Department insiders said the DepEd literally has no more room for an extra official, considering the Palace order for all executive offices to practice austerity in the face of the fiscal crisis.

The department already has six undersecretaries and five assistant secretaries, when the DepEd plantilla allows for only four undersecretaries and four assistant secretaries.

DepEd employees have complained that Malacañang apparently has a "double standard" in its belt-tightening regime, with its austerity order applying only to the rank and file.

New Education Secretary Florencio Abad earlier said he was still thinking of what line function to assign to Valisno, who previously served as commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education and head of the DepEd's National Education and Testing Research Center.

He said Valisno's appointment to the DepEd as "special assistant to the Secretary" with the rank of undersecretary was in line with Malacañang's "streamlining" of its operations, shedding the presidential adviser for education.

"The President requested me to consider bringing her in because her expertise is in education. She will be working here," said Abad.

Aside from finding work for Valisno, the DepEd also has to look for suitable office space for her as the Rizal Building, the main administrative building, has no available office space, the sources said.

The DepEd also has to provide Valisno with a staff, a driver, a service vehicle, computers, office furniture and supplies—expenses not included in its current budget nor in its proposed budget or next year.

Valisno went to the DepEd for the turnover ceremonies on Sept. 1 but has not reported for work.

# Mikey Arroyo seeks probe of Duty Free chocolates deal

**By Carlito Pablo**

SAYING every centavo counts nowadays, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo (Lakas, Pampanga) yesterday endorsed a detailed investigation into the alleged "midnight chocolate deal" involving former Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

Arroyo said he was familiar with details of the deal in which Duty Free Philippines (DFP) gave away its concession rights over the sale of chocolates and snack products to a foreign corporation based in the British Virgin Islands without a public bidding.

Last week, the Duty Free Philippines Employees Association filed graft charges before the Office of the Ombudsman against Pagdanganan and DFP general manager Michael Kho.

The employees claimed that DFP stood to lose P336 million a year, or P1.6 billion in five years, over the deal.

Pagdanganan had responded by claiming that the deal was being renegotiated.

Meanwhile, EDF managing director David Weil yesterday denied that his company had entered into a midnight deal with DFP and the tourism department and welcomed a probe by the Ombudsman.

In a statement, Weil said his company would cooperate with the authorities to ensure that the accord was in accordance with Philippine laws and regulations.

He stressed their chocolates and confectioneries supply contract with DFP was negotiated and finalized after a rigorous process with DFP management and with the full scrutiny and approval of its supervisory body, the PTA board.

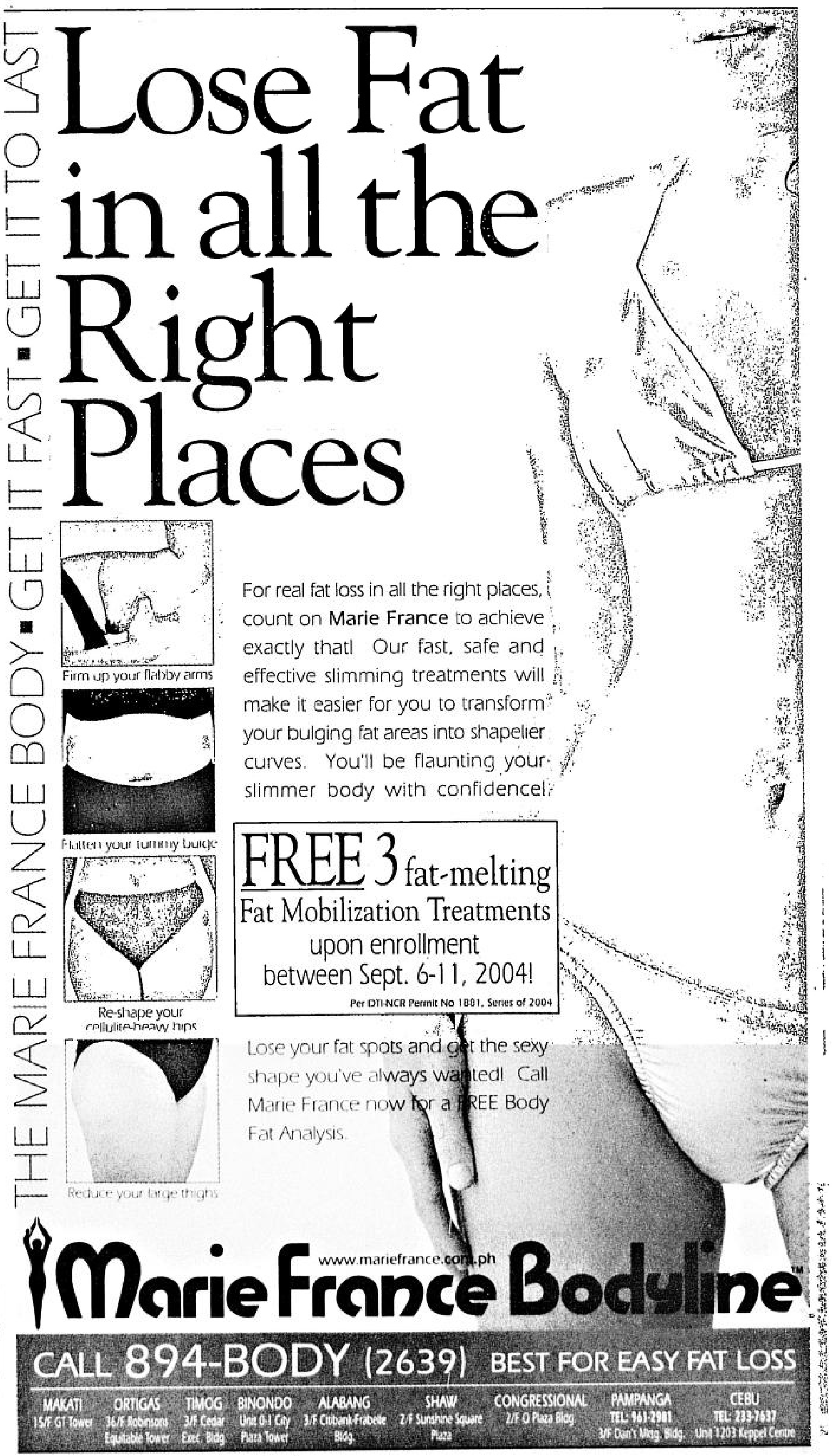
He added that the supply accord was done with faithful adherence to DFP's long-established protocols with regard to other similar arrangements dating back to 1989, when EDF first negotiated a supply contract for its supermarket operations.

## Lost medal

THE FIRST prize medal won by Wilfredo O. Pascual in the essay category of the 2004 Carlos Palanca Literature Awards, which he received last week, was lost in a tricycle plying the Quezon City Hall area on Monday night. Pascual also had in his bag a plaque he received from the Nueva Ecija provincial government on Monday morning. Information regarding the bag can be texted to 0919-536-6787.

INQ TV
MANGO

**INQUIRER AVP Imee Alcantara (right) awards a Sony TV to Chiqui Dames, daughter of Ed Dames, last week's INQTV Tanong ng Bayan winner. Dames was the text promo's 11th winner. INQTV, which airs every Thursday at 8 p.m. on ABC Channel 5 will be giving away two more TV sets this month.**



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# 'Just like killing chicken,' says Abra hired gun

From page A1

After his father's death, Julius joined elder brother Armand, who belonged to another PAG, to train. After two months of basic lessons in karate and firing and handling a gun, he and his brother avenged their father's death.

Julius was an "apprentice" then. His brother made the kill.

As a full-fledged PAG member, Julius received his first "assignment" and made his first kill when he was 14.

Armand, at 20, has the blood of four people on his hands. He made his first kill at 17.

"The first time I killed a person, I could not eat and sleep for a couple of days," Julius told the INQUIRER. "But you get used to it and then you stop feeling anything. When I kill now, it seems like I'm only butchering a chicken."

Julius and Armand are just two of the 100 or so "goons" or members of private armed groups maintained by politicians in Abra (pop: 210,017 as of 2000), a landlocked valley in the Cordillera.

These groups have been blamed for politically motivated killings in the province starting in the 1960s. At least 14 killings of local politicians, two of them town mayors, have been attributed to members of rival PAGs from 1998 to 2004. *(See accompanying table.)*

**HEAVILY** armed but barefoot men agreed to have their picture taken—albeit not completely—by the INQUIRER photographer at an undisclosed place in Abra. EV ESPIRITU

### State funds used to buy guns

Weeks before the May 10 elections, the Philippine National Police said it had counted 119 private armies in all the regions of the country, except Metro Manila. One private army in Mindanao had as many as 200 members, armed with at least 120 high-powered weapons, it said.

The existence of these armed groups has aggravated the problem of loose firearms in the country, which had been estimated at between 200,000 and 300,000 guns.

A police official in the province acknowledged the strength of PAGs in Abra.

"PAG members are better armed than us because the politicians they serve use government funds to buy guns," the official said.

"In this province, the internal revenue allotment (IRA) is always the source of contention. If you go to several towns, you will notice that there have been no improvements in their roads and other infrastructure for the past years. This is because the money was used to buy high-powered guns."

In the 1970s and 1980s, Abra was known as an active operations base of the communist New People's Army. But from 1990s onward, the province was put in the limelight due to reports of the operations of hired goons and private armies.

### Need for private armies

Longtime Abra politicians said the existence of private armies in the province arose from the need of some people to protect themselves from intense rivalries that had characterized Abra politics.

Xander, a former commander of a private army of two Abra governors, traced the first known operation of political goons in the province to the early 1960s.

Now 64, Xander said the 1963 elections in Abra, when Jose Valera—whose family had been politically entrenched in the province—and former Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero ran against each other for governor, was "the most violent" in the province.

He alleged that one armed group included former convicts from Manila.

"These men became vendors by day so they could familiarize themselves with the area," Xander said.

Lakay Tasyo, 84, a former media practitioner, said the men were called "burik" because they sported tattoos.

"To fight fire with fire and to balance the situation, [the other group] 'imported' goons from Ilocos Sur. They were mostly men with bad [criminal] records, those who were on parole and who were wanted [by the police]," Xander said.

Accounts from some old Abra folk said several political supporters of the rival groups died during that election period.

### Remembrance of things past

"Nobody wanted to lose during that election," Lakay Tasyo said, adding that one politician was backed "by the bourgeois" while his rival was supported "by people from the *ili* (villages)."

But Lakay Tasyo disputed accounts that many politically motivated deaths occurred in Abra at that time. "There were only rare occasions when people were killed because of politics," he said.

Abra Gov. Vicente Valera, son of Jose Valera, vividly remembers that election year.

"I remember very well when our ancestral house was struck by goons ... This was the time when political leaders would not want to go on the campaign trail anymore because of fear," said Governor Valera.

A former Abra assemblyman said survival made the maintenance of a private armed group a necessity.

"In response to the trend [of keeping goons] that was started [in the 1960s] ... mayors felt the need to have goons as well," he said.

"It was not really as if private armies were established out of a whim. These were maintained as a defense mechanism to what was happening at that time."

### What is a private army?

Senior Supt. Artemio Hicban, Abra police director, said the police had identified only one group in the province that would fit the "operational definition" of a PAG.

"There is only one group considered to meet the [prescribed] parameters. Other politicians here maintain groups for security reasons," Hicban said.

According to Hicban, police define a PAG as "any organized group of three or more persons, where at least one is armed with firearms and/or other deadly weapons and acts or is utilized to commit acts in violation of the law and/or human rights for purposes of engaging in or supporting a partisan political and/or economic activity."

Hicban defined partisan political activity as an "act designed to promote the election or the defeat of particular candidate(s) to public office."

"Partisan economic activity," on the other hand, is an "act designed to protect and/or advance the vested economic interest of a particular person or group of persons," he said.

**Local politicians killed by suspected PAG members**

| NAME | POSITION | YEAR of DEATH |
|---|---|---|
| Rombolio Pariñas | Lagayan councilor | 1998 |
| Jose Segundo Sr. | Tubo mayor | 2000 |
| Arnulfo Bañez | Pilar ABC president | 2001 |
| Leonardo Parado Sr. | Lagayan councilor | 2001 |
| Charito Tolentino | Langiden ABC president | 2001 |
| Clarence Benwaren | Tineg mayor | 2002 |
| Reynaldo Bataller and Restituto Benosa | Barangay captains in Peñarrubia | 2002 (during the Arya Abra Festival parade) |
| Zaldimar Blue | Barangay captain in Langiden | 2002 |
| Nestor "Angin" Belisario Jr. | Barangay captain in Bangued | 2003 |
| Irineo Belisario | To take oath as barangay captain in Langangilang | 2003 |
| Ceferino Callibag | Candidate for councilor in Danglas | 2004 |
| Amor Bringas | Former barangay captain in Bangued | 2004 |
| Ruben Afos | La Paz ABC president | 2004 |

*(Source: Abra police)*

Hicban said groups whose activities were "purely criminal in nature" were not considered PAGs.

At least two local officials and a scion of a politician here admitted to the INQUIRER that they maintained private armies to protect themselves from their political enemies.

One of them, Vladimir, 27, claimed that all Abra politicians maintained armed groups.

### 'Everyone has private army'

"Actually, all politicians here have their own private armies. *Hindi uso ang demandahan dito* (Lawsuits aren't the norm here)," he said.

Vladimir said he grew up witnessing violence and conflict, and eventually learned to live by the gun.

"The culture has made goons and private armies necessary here. Stealing and killing would be rampant if people did not fear anyone," he said.

Valera said he was aware that private armies existed in the province and these groups had not been dismantled.

"This matter had been brought up to the authorities during the election period and even up to now," he said.

Valera denied allegations by his political rivals that he was maintaining an armed group.

Asked whether it was important for an official in the province to maintain a private army, Valera said: "If this matter is not checked now, then it will have a contagious effect on other municipalities in our province.

"I fear the day when everybody will be relying on goons, firearms, terrorism and threats just so these people will win elections," he said.

Valera dismissed allegations that violence and the maintenance of PAG were part of Abra's "culture."

### Governor disagrees

"I beg to disagree with that concept. Maybe 30 years ago, 40 years ago, that was the trend when it was a known fact that in our neighboring provinces, there were the so-called *saka-saka* (barefoot goons). It was only during this election (2004) that (we) had experienced this style of campaigning and style of maintaining again private armies so one would win," he said.

A police official said some armed groups did not resort to violence and, in fact, respected the police and the people in power.

"*Kaunti lang ang mga walang* PAG dito (There are only a few without PAGs here)," said the official. "But most officials use them for protection when they travel, unlike the group that had been positively identified by the police. These men are used to harass rivals and to win elections. They have more than 40 members."

The official added: "Other goons of politicians are not killers."

He said it was only in Abra where even barangay captains and ordinary citizens asked the police for bodyguards.

"In other provinces, only high ranking politicians (ask for bodyguards). The culture here is very different and most police officers who are not Abra natives are shocked by that practice when they are assigned here," the official said.

*(Tomorrow: Private armies are pawns in Abra politics)*

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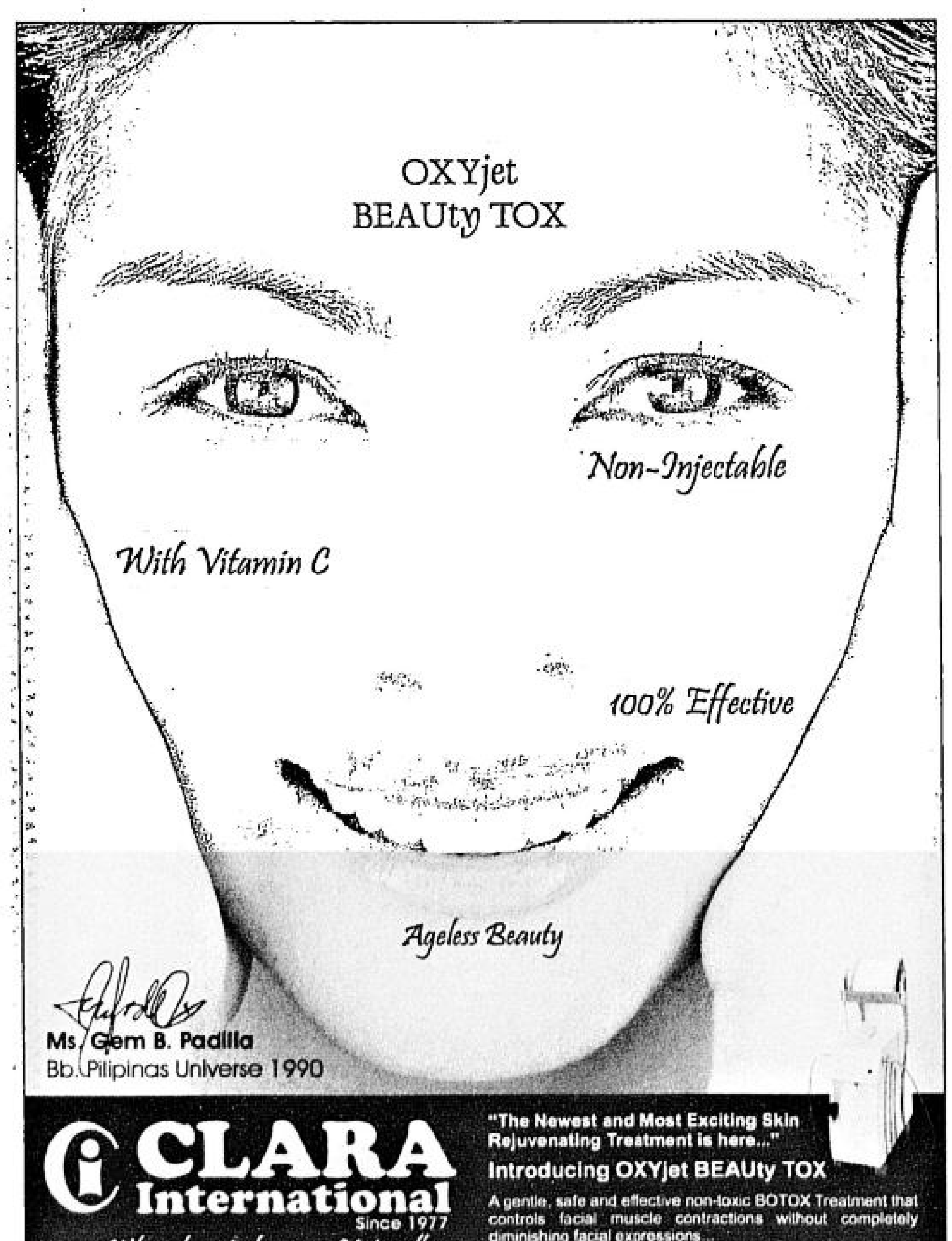

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# Church group formed to fight corruption

From page A1

cies and conduct lifestyle checks on local officials.

According to Diola, contributing money to help address the fiscal crisis is a symbolic gesture "at best" because the problem is caused by corruption in the government.

Barug Pilipino, which counts three bishops, a diocesan priest and lay volunteers among its members, was registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission on Aug. 27.

Its chair, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, said the anticorruption advocacy was the Church's response to the growing problem of graft and corruption.

"We will teach the people the principles that they will need to pursue the advocacy. I know that the work will be very difficult, and this is where faith comes in," he said.

Vidal officiated at the launching of the first of a series of modules on Aug. 29 at the Ecotech Center in Barangay Lahug, Cebu City.

In a speech, Bishop Chito Tagle of the Imus Diocese said the Filipino people needed "a conversion, or a new way of looking at things."

"We must be open to change." Tagle said. "At present, around 80 percent of those who commit crimes in the Philippines are baptized Christians. This is a serious thing to ponder on."

### Consolidated group

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo merged the Transparency Group with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, which will now be the lead agency to conduct lifestyle checks on government officials and personnel.

"They are two different groups so I have decided to consolidate them," she said yesterday at a breakfast forum of the Manila Overseas Press Club,

Ms Arroyo appointed Defense Undersecretary Constancia de Guzman as new chair of the PAGC, and lawyer Nick Conti, an assistant secretary at the Office of the President who is in charge of the Transparency Group's lifestyle checks, as a member.

De Guzman replaced Dario Rama, who was recently named postmaster general.

She is a longtime aide of Ms Arroyo's, having served with her at the Department of Trade and Industry. She was appointments secretary before she was named to the Department of National Defense.

Conti was Rigoberto Tiglao's deputy at the Transparency Group when the latter was still Ms Arroyo's chief of staff. Tiglao has since been named head of the Presidential Management Staff.

It was Conti who examined the statements of assets and liabilities of government officials and personnel, which were made the basis for the lifestyle checks.

Those with questionable assets or lifestyles vis a vis their salaries were investigated and charged with graft before the Ombudsman.

Ms Arroyo said the PAGC was playing an important part in her campaign against corruption in the government.

She said that like the Office of the Ombudsman, the PAGC needed more investigators to effectively carry out its task of weeding out corrupt officials and personnel.

### 'New form of politics'

Barug Pilipino intends to pursue an advocacy that is "Church-based and Church-initiated but not Church-bound," Diola said.

"The country needs a new form of politics wherein leaders render genuine, humble service, wherein power and authority are balanced by humility and responsibility. To be a church of the poor is to fight corruption," he said.

State auditor Heidi Mendoza of the Commission on Audit is assisting Vidal in the group's anticorruption advocacy.

She said Barug Pilipino members would be trained to become not only effective partners in the anticorruption program but also vigilant in the disbursement of government funds.

"The Church can be a strong front against corruption because it can tackle moral reform programs when we can only work with structural reform. Now, with the faith dimension, people will constantly be in touch with their conscience," said Mendoza, author of the book, "A guide to the investigation of common procurement fraud and irregularities," and a volunteer of the Transparency Group.

### Periodic cycle

In his homily during the launch, Vidal said that while the Filipinos had lived through a number of triumphs, their difficulties would not stop in this generation or even in the next.

"Idealists have turned cynical over the cycle of euphoria and depression our nation periodically undergoes. But real advocates keep on," he said.

Barug Pilipino spokesperson Paul Hubahib said a strict screening process had been put in place.

Volunteers who want to join the anticorruption group will need the recommendation of any of the members, and the board of trustees—which includes Bishops Tagle and Tony Ledesma of the Ipil Diocese in Zamboanga del Sur—will be consulted before they are accepted, Hubahib said.

He also said the group was solely relying on donations and monthly pledges from members, "which also have to be screened."

Many of the leaders of Barug Pilipino belonged to the now defunct Citizens for Judicial Independence, a multisectoral group that took up the cudgels for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. when impeachment charges were filed against him last year. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila*

# Plaints, lobbying holding up PNP revamp

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

WHAT'S keeping top cop Edgar Aglipay from completing the revamp of the Philippine National Police?

Aglipay promised last week to announce new appointments to his six-month administration but has since been silent. The reason: his list had to go through last-minute revisions, owing to complaints and lobbying by police generals, and some technical hitches.

"He's having a tough time appointing the people he wants," said a senior police officer. "Somehow, his hands are tied because there are some top officials lobbying for their own men. Worse, there's also Malacañang, which has the last say."

Even his predecessor, retired Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., had requested Aglipay to allow some members of Philippine Military Academy Class 1981 to assume some choice positions, the officer said.

Considered Ebdane's "favorite," the batch includes Senior Superintendents Alex Monteagudo and Alan Purisima, chief of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team.

Another senior officer yesterday said a number of upperclassmen were dismayed at the alleged preferential treatment that some members of PMA '81 had been enjoying.

Another problem besetting Aglipay, the officer claimed, involved some generals who were not happy with the new assignments Aglipay and the Senior Officers Placement and Promotions Board had initially lined up for them.

For instance, he said, there are some Metro Manila-based officials who didn't want to assume posts in far-flung regions like Caraga in Mindanao. Having held key positions, they considered provincial appointments not appropriate to their status, he said.

A member of the SOPBB, who is also a general, chided the officer for what he considered their unprofessional attitude.

"Why choose?" he told the Inquirer. "We're supposed to be professional officers here. They should consider all appointments as a stepping stone for better positions in the future. But everything should be based on their performance."

The general said these officers should abandon their "city boy" mentality that purportedly kept them from accepting with an open mind whatever positions their bosses deemed suited for them.

The general explained that the revamp was delayed primarily by the lack of civil service eligibility of some officials up for promotion.

He also cited the cases of officers like Chief Superintendents Marcelo Navarro and Victor Luga who have less than a year left in the service.

Since Navarro is set to reach his mandatory retirement age of 56 in August next year and Luga 19 days later, they cannot be promoted to the rank of director (two-star general), he said.

But the official said the PNP leadership had already ironed out complications. He said Aglipay might announce the revamp within the week.

# SC junks heinous crime courts to protect judges

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

THE SUPREME Court has abolished heinous crime courts in an effort to stop the killing of judges all over the country.

In a two-page resolution dated Aug. 24, the tribunal approved several measures to ensure the security of judges, including the revocation of the 1996 administrative order that created heinous crime courts.

"(The order) is hereby revoked owing to the relatively low caseloads in the said courts and considering that the current setup makes a heinous crime court judge easily identifiable, making him or her an easy prey to vindictive litigants," the high tribunal said.

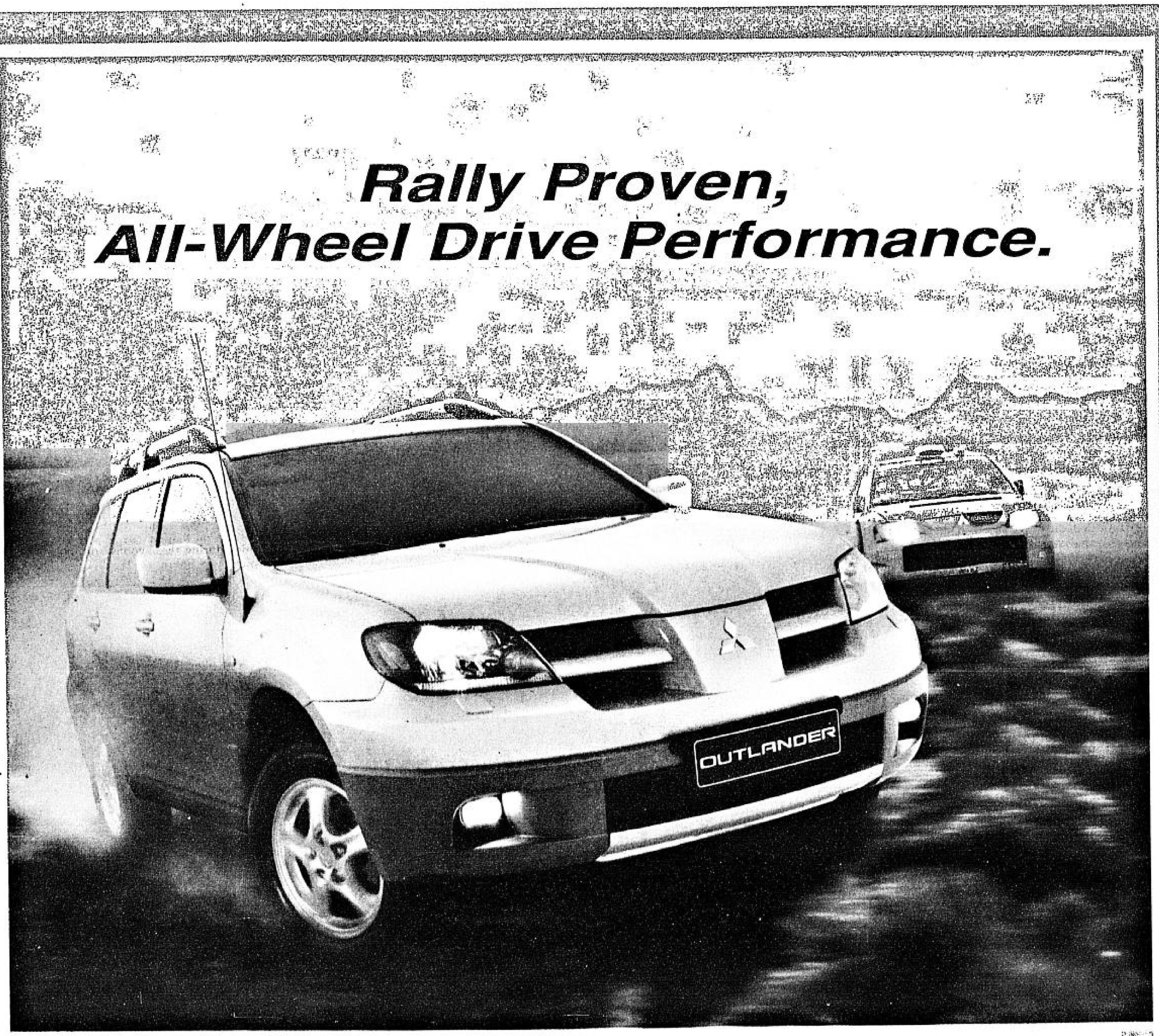
It said that regional trial courts would now handle heinous crimes.

The tribunal issued its resolution after two judges were killed last month and in June, raising the number of magistrates killed in the last five years to seven.

The Supreme Court said that judges should have "special processing privileges" when asking the Philippine National Police to allow them to carry guns outside their homes and offices.

It said the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) obtained a commitment from former PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to grant the request of judges to carry firearms.

The tribunal reminded the PNP that, under the Revised Administrative Code, judges are not required to secure permits to carry firearms outside their homes.



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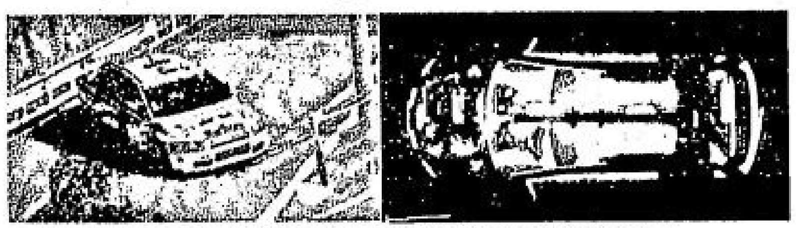

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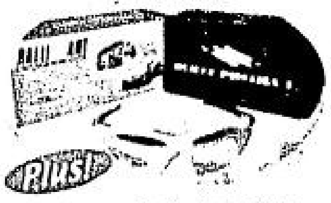

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# DFA: Iraq still unsafe for Pinoy workers

By TJ Burgonio

A PHILIPPINE security-monitoring team in the Middle East said it was not yet "100 percent" safe for Filipinos to work in Iraq, hence, the ban on deployment of workers there stays.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo issued the statement Monday following reports that 24 Filipinos managed to slip into Iraq and find work in US military camps despite the existing ban.

"Ultimately it has to be our Middle East Preparedness Team (MEPT), together with Charge d'Affaires (Ricardo) Endaya, who will give us the word. Until we are assured of the safety and security of all Filipinos there, the ban on deployment, including truck drivers, should remain," Romulo said.

Endaya is vice chair of the MEPT.

The entry of 24 Filipinos into Iraq was reported by an inter-agency committee tasked to review the partial lifting of the ban on workers who want to work in US-run Camps Anaconda and Victory in Baghdad.

The country has existing agreements with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait to stop Filipino truck drivers from crossing their borders into Iraq.

Romulo stressed that the chief consideration for the complete lifting of the ban in the war-ravaged state remained the safety and security of the Filipino workers there.

"Obviously, when their safety is assured then we will talk about lifting the ban," he said.

Pending the issuance of a clearance by the MEPT, Endaya visited the work sites of Filipinos to provide any form of assistance and to assure them that the Department of Foreign Affairs was ready to repatriate them should they decide to come here.

The ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq was imposed in April and lifted on July 1. It was reimposed nine days later after Iraqi militants seized Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

*With Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# American traders' group warns on tax amnesty bill

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. has warned that the proposed tax amnesty bill in Congress "unduly favors the tax evaders and is disadvantageous to honest taxpayers."

In a letter to the House ways and means committee, the chamber zeroed in on a provision that requires persons earning P100,000 and more per year to file statements of assets, liabilities and net worth.

"The forced filing of the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth is an unnecessary requirement or a burden to middle income salaried taxpayers who diligently pay taxes by payroll deduction," said Amcham taxes and tariff committee chair Cirilo Noel in the letter.

Noel said there was serious concern about the handling, management and keeping of the SAL by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"Concern for serious breaches of confidentiality will certainly discourage taxpayers to disclose all their assets and reveal their true net worth in the statements," Noel said.

He said the filing of SALs could be used by organized crime syndicates to target victims for kidnapping and robbery.

"The filing of the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth would just make it easier for kidnappers and robbers to select their targets," Noel said.

As of yesterday, legislators were debating the merits of requiring the filing of SALs with Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Lakas, Ilocos Sur) saying it was unconstitutional.

Baterina said the provision would in effect violate a person's right against self-incrimination.

*Carlito Pablo*

# Journalism grants available at Ateneo

EIGHT fellowship grants will be awarded by the Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism (CFJ) at the Ateneo de Manila University to working journalists interested in pursuing a master's degree in journalism.

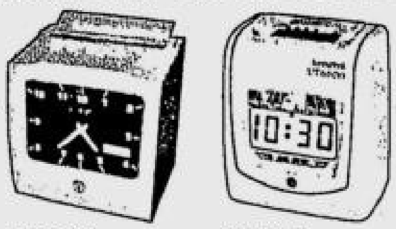
The CFJ fellowships for the master's degree are granted to full-time staff members of a news organization in Asia and the Pacific Islands. Applicants are screened on the basis of their professional and academic record, and commitment to journalism and leadership qualities. A grant covers tuition and expenses for books, travel and accommodations.

Eighteen journalists from six countries have received the fellowship since it was established in June 2003, which coincided with the launch of its 12-course distance learning program leading to an M.A. in Journalism.

For the first semester of the present school year, eight journalists—one each from Sri Lanka and China, two from Malaysia and four from the Philippines—received fellowships.

Ateneo's M.A. Journalism program is distinctive for its innovative use of online and conventional learning methods. With most of the courses conducted online, working journalists and other professionals in the program are able to study at their own pace, and in their own homes or workplaces.

Application forms may be downloaded from http://cfj.ateneo.edu or requested by e-mail at newsroom@admu.edu.ph. CFJ may also be contacted by phone at 632-926-3253 or 632-426-6001 (local 5215), or fax at 632-926-3254.



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| Ampicillin cap. 500 mg | ✓ | 6.50 | 14.15 | 7.65/bot |
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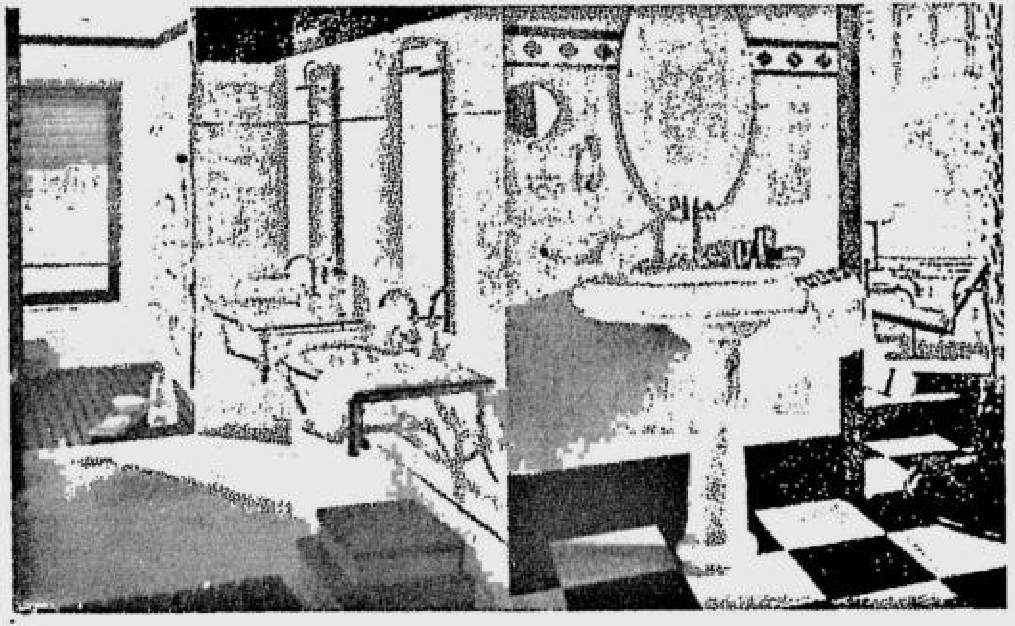

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SCHEDULES:
Asian Food Expo (Presentation of Candidates) SEPTEMBER 1-4
LAST CALL! Elimination Round ---
. Call Time is 9am SHARP. FOR WALK INS, YOU MAY CHOOSE FROM ANY OF THE SCHOOL VENUES, JUST MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE A SCHOOL MATE COMPETING.
FOR KOLEHIYALA PARTICIPANTS, Elimination round is on September 21 ONLY.
NOTE: If the student will not come on the time slot allotted, it is a ground for disqualification.
Polytechnic University of the Philippines (Sta. Mesa) SEPTEMBER 06
Southeast Asian College (Welcome Rotonda ) SEPTEMBER 08
University of Sto.Tomas (College of Education Bldg) SEPTEMBER 09
St. Jude College (Don Quijote St. Sampaloc Mla) SEPTEMBER 10
Emilio Aguinaldo College (Bldg 7 canteen) (UN Avenue) SEPTEMBER 13
Philippine Christian University (Taft Ave. Mla) SEPTEMBER 15
Arellano University Gym (Legarda St., Manila) SEPTEMBER 16
SEMIFINAL ROUND
FOR LAST CALL! SEPTEMBER 20
OUTBACK RESTAURANT (E.RODRIGUEZ LIBIS QC)
FOR KOLEHIYALA FLAIR SHOWDOWN SEPTEMBER 21
OUTBACK RESTAURANT (E.RODRIGUEZ LIBIS QC)
PRESENTATION OF FINALISTS SEPTEMBER 23
TGI FRIDAY'S (GLORIETTA 3 MAKATI)
GRAND FINALS SEPTEMBER 25
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SIDESHOW COMPETITION
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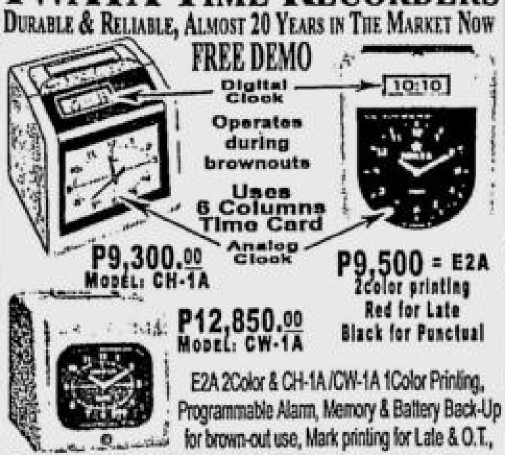

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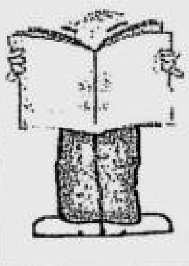

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**September 18, 2004 Saturday 1:00 - 5:00 PM**

A press release informs the customers exactly how your product and service will benefit their lives. It is an effective way to promote business. Learn how to make your own press release.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT AND APPRAISAL**
**September 23, 2004 Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

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**September 21 & 23, 2004 T-Th 6:00 PM-8:30 PM**

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| • ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS | September 25 - October 23, 2004 | Saturday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN |
| • PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT AND COST EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAM | September 25 - October 9, 2004 | Saturday | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| • ADVANCED SUPERVISORY TECHNIQUES | September 20 - October 1, 2004 | M-W-F | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM |
| • EFFECTIVE BUSINESS COMMUNICATION | September 20 - October 1, 2004 | M-W-F | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM |
| • INCOME & BUSINESS TAXES FOR BUSINESSMEN, EXEC. & PROFESSIONALS | September 18 & 25, 2004 | Saturday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN |
| • PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES | September 25 & October 2, 2004 | Saturday | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| • PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING FOR MGRS. AND SUPERVISORS | September 25 - October 9, 2004 | Saturday | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| • STEPS IN BUSNESS FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION | September 21 & 23, 2004 | T-Th | 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM |
| • ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS | September 18, 2004 | Saturday | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| • CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELENCE AND SUPPORT | September 18, 2004 | Saturday | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| • TELEPHONE BEHAVIOR AND PROFESSIONAL TELEPHONE SELLING | September 20 & 22, 2004 | M-W | 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM |

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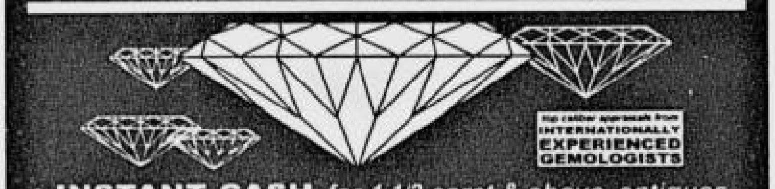

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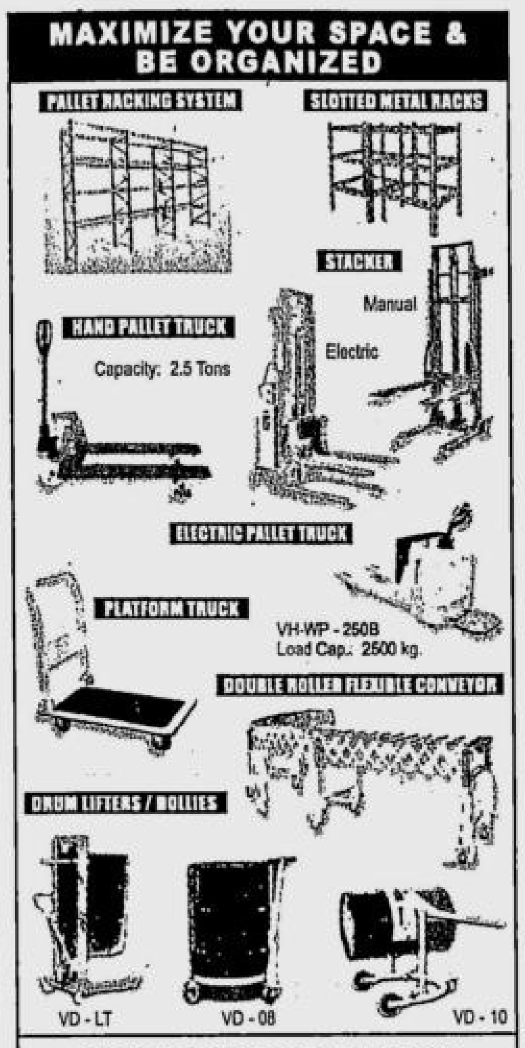

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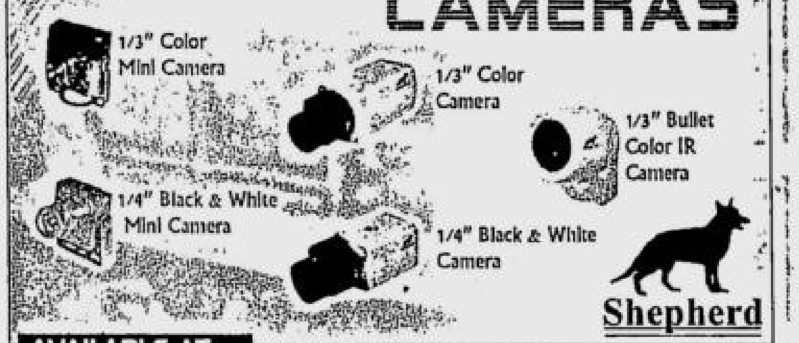
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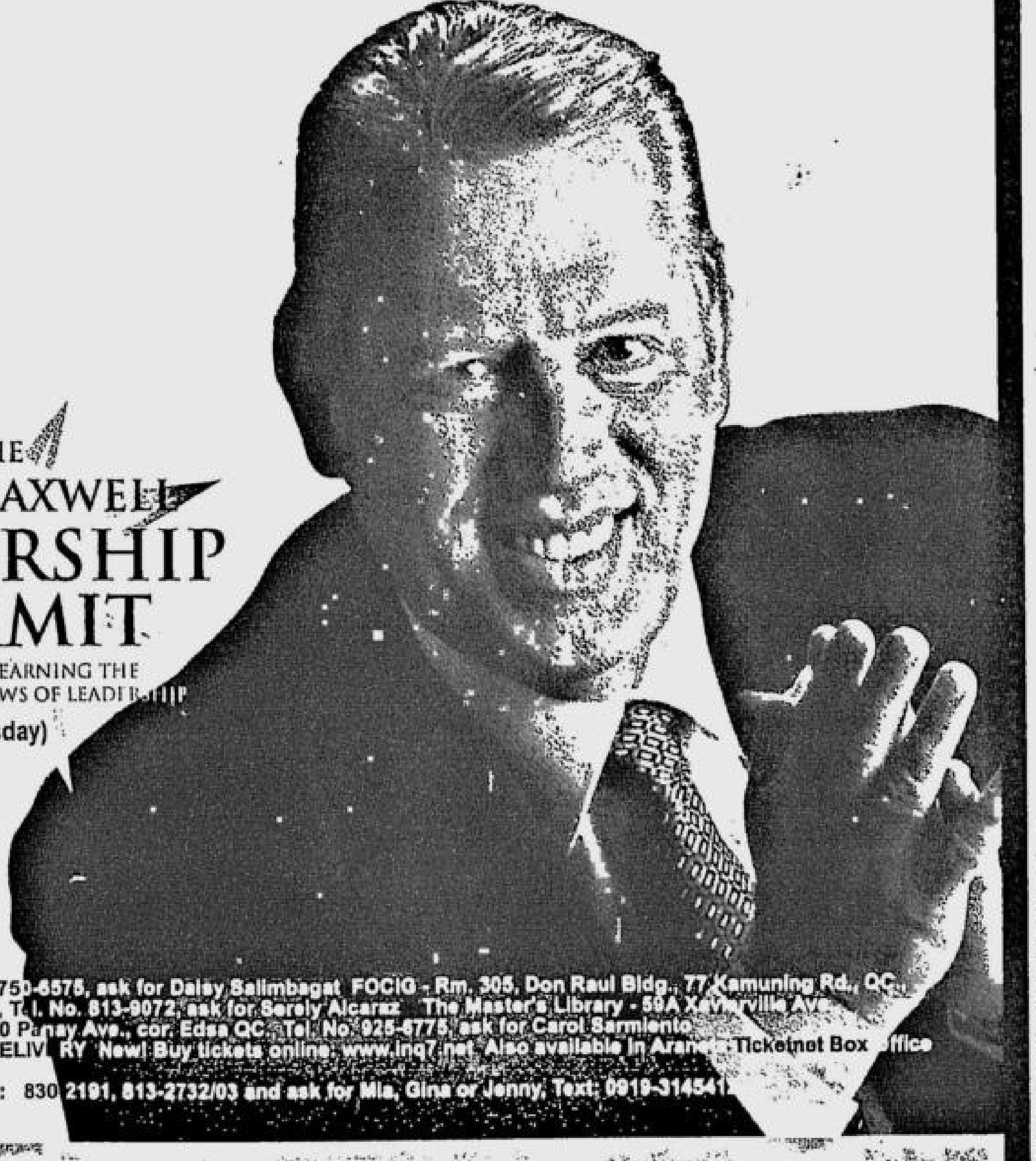

## MEGA LEARNING EVENT 1 High Impact Teams Seminar

Acquiring the 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player
*Opening Session by Francis Kong*

**Araneta Coliseum • September 15, 2004 (Wednesday)**
**6:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

Ticket Prices at P400; P600; *P750; *P950; *P1,750; P2,250 and P2,750
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**8:30 am to 5:00 pm**

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# Revive antismuggle bodies, businessmen urge Gloria

BUSINESS groups are questioning President Macapagal-Arroyo's move abolishing three key antismuggling bodies last month despite the continued influx into the country of cheap and substandard goods for which no duties are paid.

In a letter to the President, the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) and the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) appealed for the revival of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Smuggling (Cocas), the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force (NASTF) and the Antismuggling Intelligence and Investigation Center (Asiic) whose responsibilities were transferred to the Bureau of Customs on Aug. 25.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President abolished the three bodies to give newly appointed Customs Commissioner Jorge Jereos up to seven months to prove himself.

The FPI and FTA said the three bodies, headed by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, had been very effective in curbing smuggling, citing the 13.4 percent increase in customs collections to P60.157 billion in the first half of this year. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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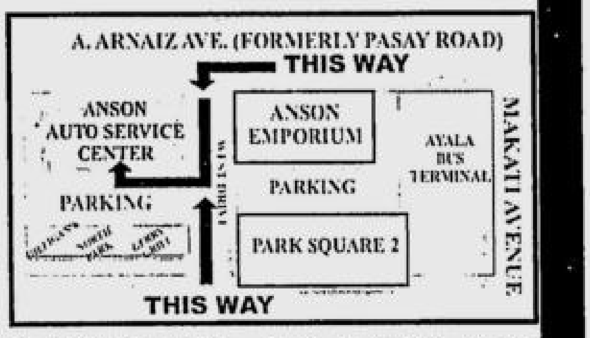

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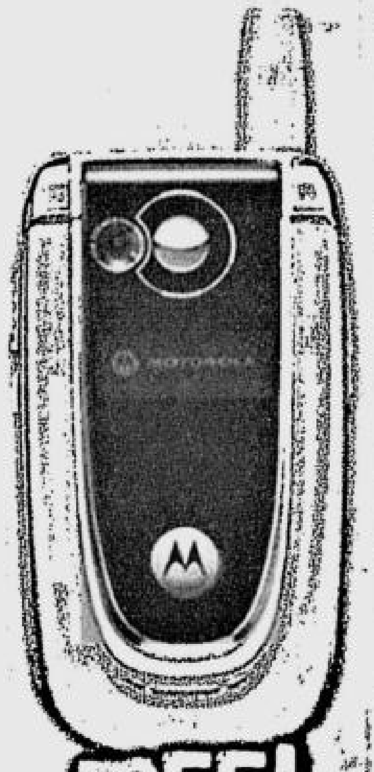

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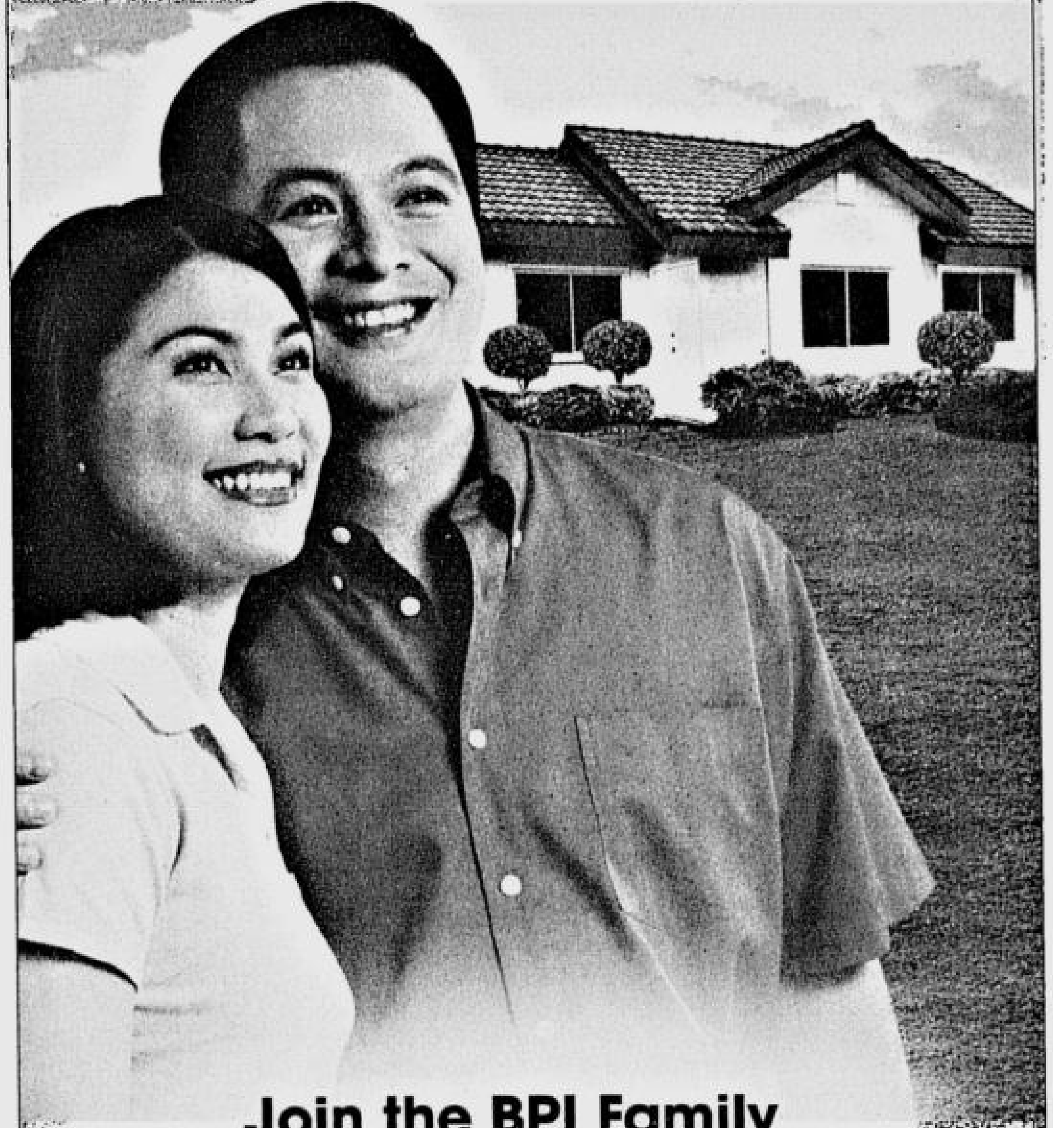

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# After surgery, Clinton tells Kerry how to beat Bush

From page A1

John Kerry and his bid to unseat President George W. Bush.

With Kerry badly in need of a boost after new polls showing him trailing Bush by double digits, voters at home on the holiday were instead treated to reports that Clinton had been giving Kerry advice from his hospital bed.

It gave the image that Kerry was the one in need of the "rescue operation," CNN political commentator William Schneider joked.

The New York Times reported that Kerry had enlisted more Clinton advisers to help shore up his faltering campaign eight weeks ahead of the Nov. 2 election.

Clinton, a cigar-smoking workaholic whose family history of heart disease and passion for junk food had set him up for a heart attack in the near future, underwent a quadruple heart bypass operation to relieve arteries so severely clogged that they posed imminent danger of a major heart attack.

Blockages in some arteries were "well over 90 percent," said Dr. Craig R. Smith, the surgeon who led the operation at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

"There was a substantial likelihood that he would have had a substantial heart attack," said Dr. Allan Schwartz, chief of cardiology.

During the operation, Clinton's heart was stopped and he was put on a heart-lung machine for 73 minutes. That process, used for more than 75 percent of bypass patients, carries a small risk of stroke and neurological complications.

In a four-hour procedure, surgeons took blood vessels from Clinton's chest and left leg and attached them to arteries feeding his heart, creating detours for the bloodstream around segments dangerously choked with plaque, the detritus of thousands of hamburgers, pizzas and fried eggs.

His team of 12 doctors, which included three surgeons, called the operation routine

## Magical touch

Throughout his career, Clinton, 58, has demonstrated an almost magical ability to find the spotlight, helping make him the only Democrat to be elected to the White House since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

His popularity with voters allowed him to survive sex scandals that led to his impeachment, and many Democrats blame presidential candidate Al Gore's 2000 election loss on Gore's decision to try to distance himself from Clinton after the impeachment.

Clinton drew thousands of people on a book tour earlier this year to promote his best-selling autobiography "My Life," and was widely seen as the star of the show at July's Democratic national convention, overshadowing Kerry with a speech that electrified the party faithful.

Democratic party chair Terry McAuliffe said Clinton had been expected to make 10 appearances for Kerry in September and campaign extensively for him in October, the New York Times said.

In a 90-minute conversation from the hospital on Saturday, the former president told Kerry to stop focussing on his service in the Vietnam War and instead attack Bush on job creation and health care, the paper said.

## Bush leads by double digits

The report said there was rising concern among Democrats about the state of the Kerry campaign. There has been criticism that Kerry was slow to respond to attacks on his military record and to counter Bush on domestic policy.

According to a poll in Monday's Newsweek magazine, Bush would trounce Kerry by a 54-43 percent margin in a head-to-head matchup held right now. Rival Time magazine also showed Bush with a double-digit lead.

The numbers mark a huge bounce for Bush after last week's Republican national convention, where the US president pledged to continue the war on terrorism.

Until the convention, repeated polls showed Bush and Kerry to be in a neck-and-neck race with US voters sharply divided.

Doctors said the burger-gobbling Clinton would have to watch his diet in the future if he wanted to stay out of hospital.

Clinton is expected to make a full recovery and live a normal life, doctors said, but the days of burgers and French fries that marked his presidency will likely be a thing of the past.

"His future diet is going to play a major role in preventing recurrence," Schwartz said.

## Fears of heart attack

Clinton had lost weight recently thanks to a popular US diet but his medical team said that his heart had become badly blocked over time, and that he was on the way to an imminent heart attack when he was admitted Friday.

"The pictures of the arteries to his heart showed extensive blockage in each of the vessels supplying blood," said Schwartz.

Speaking to CNN on Friday, Clinton admitted his appetite for fast food may have contributed to his current predicament.

"Some of this is genetic and I may have done some damage in those years when I was too careless about what I ate," he said.

Doctors said Clinton's return to full health would take weeks.

Clinton also had high blood pressure and may not have been adequately treated for high cholesterol. Doctors said he was put on a cholesterol-lowering drug a few days ago. Clinton was prescribed cholesterol medicine in 2001 as he was leaving office.

## Campaign trail

"These past few days have been quite an emotional roller-coaster for us," Clinton's wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said. "The president's optimism and faith will carry him through the difficult weeks and months ahead—of that we have no doubt."

Clinton went to the hospital after complaining of chest pain and shortness of breath, but doctors revealed that he'd had these symptoms for several months. They said he had blamed them on lapses in his exercise routine and acid reflux.

Schwartz said it would be possible for Clinton in the future to lead an "extraordinarily active lifestyle"—including hitting the campaign trail to promote Democrats running this year.

Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood, chief cardiovascular surgeon at East Carolina University and a spokesperson for the American College of Cardiology, agreed with Clinton's doctors that the former president had been in a dangerous state leading up to the operation.

"Within the next couple of weeks, something was going to happen," he said.

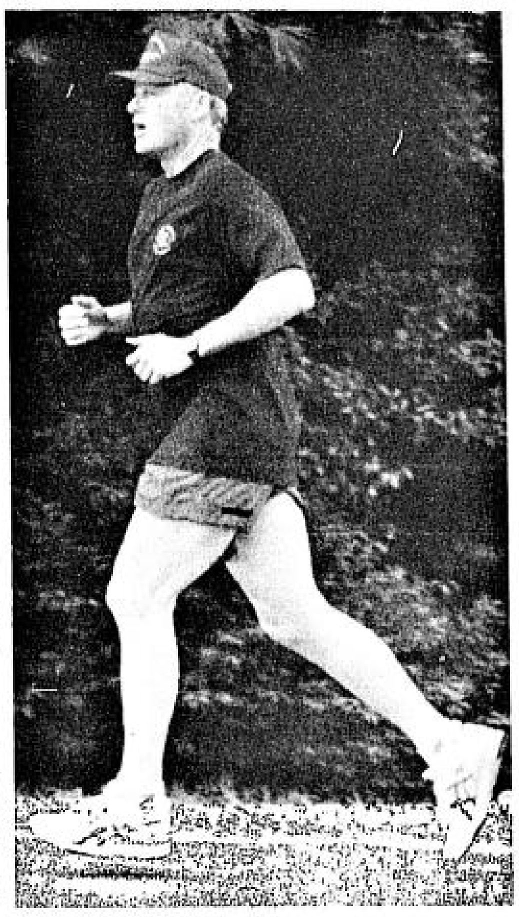
Clinton has blamed his heart problems in part on genetics—there is a history of heart disease in his mother's family.

Clinton was an avid jogger during his two terms in the White House. In recent months he has appeared much slimmer. He has said he cut out junk food, begun working out and adopted the low-carbohydrate, low-fat South Beach diet.

More than 45,000 get-well wishes have poured in for Clinton, including tens of thousands of e-mails sent to the website of his presidential library.

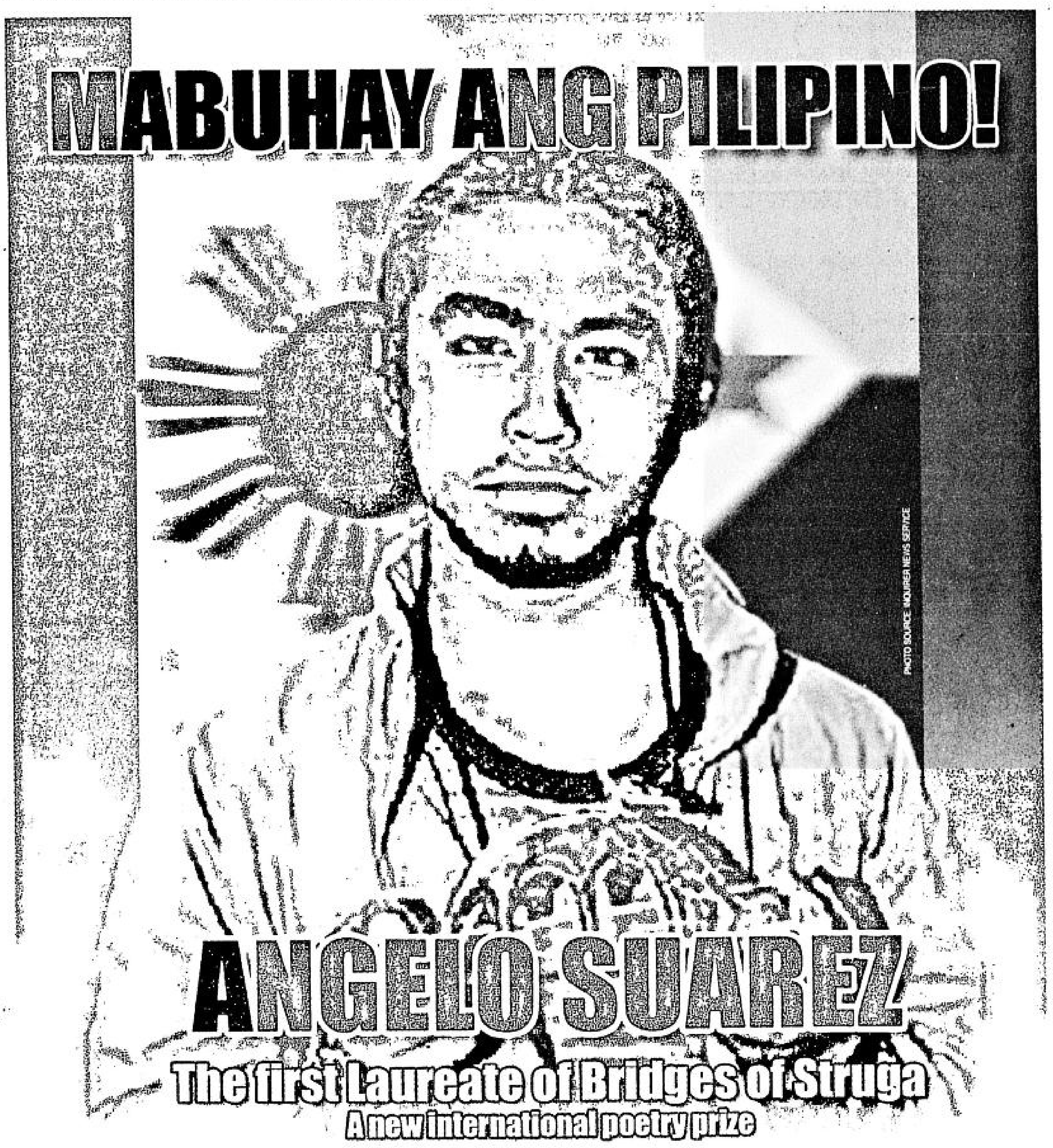
"You are surrounded by cherished family, friends and a nation that adores you and prays for your full and complete recovery," wrote Toni Maryanna Rossi. "You'll be jogging 5 miles a day in no time." *Reports by AFP, AP, New York Times*

R. Smith, MD
Cardiac Surgery



**DR. CRAIG R. Smith of the New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center uses a model of a human heart to explain to reporters the heart bypass surgery he performed on former US President Bill Clinton on Monday. At right, Bill Clinton jogs in Washington in this Sept. 15, 1994 file photo. The former US president had a successful quadruple heart bypass operation on Monday to relieve clogged arteries.**

AP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ANGELO SUAREZ
The first Laureate of Bridges of Struga
A new international poetry prize

Angelo Suarez, a nineteen-year-old, fourth-year literature student of the University of Santo Tomas, is the first Laureate of Bridges of Struga, a new international poetry prize. Created by the international festival Struga Poetry Evenings in cooperation with Unesco (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization), the prize was awarded during the festival which was held from August 25-29, 2004 in Struga, Macedonia. Suarez received the award for his poetry collection, "The Nymph of MTV" (UST Publishing House) and was chosen from among 24 candidates from 15 member countries of Unesco.

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JOAN BONDOC

# Reforming Muslim schools on GMA agenda

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she was attending the big social event in Brunei, but that she had other plans there.

Ms Arroyo announced an initiative to reform Muslim schools in Mindanao, with the help of Brunei, to deny Islamic militants a recruiting ground. She said she would be briefed at the University of Brunei.

"They have school programs for our *madaris*, or teachers in *madrassahs* (Islamic schools), to teach moderate Islam rather than fundamentalist Islam," she told a press conference.

Ms Arroyo considers the threat of Muslim militants as the country's No. 1 security threat following the wave of deadly bombings in recent years in the South.

Her security aides said certain Islamic schools financed by interests abroad preached hate and religious intolerance and served as fertile grounds for new recruits for the Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asia-based militant group blamed for the 2002 Bali, Indonesia, bombings that killed more than 200 people.

Arroyo said she would also meet with Brunei's 10-member contribution to an international committee, led by Malaysia, that is monitoring a ceasefire between the government and Muslim separatists. *AFP*

**BRUNEI'S Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah makes his wedding vows during a ceremony in Bandar Seri Begawan on Saturday.** AFP

## One of Asia's grandest weddings . . .

**From page A1**

Megawati Sukarnoputri, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The royal wedding will showcase ancient traditions [that have been observed] for generations. It is a combination of Muslim and ancient cultures that belong to us," Brunei information officer Musa Mohidin told AFP.

Brunei traces its beginnings 1,500 years back to Hindu origins, but its rulers converted to Islam in 1371. It fell under British rule in the 19th century and gained independence in 1984.

### Fireworks

The 14-day pageantry reaches its climax when the crown prince and his bride hold court together at the throne chamber of the riverside palace tomorrow.

After the ceremonies, the couple will ride a limousine converted into a golden royal carriage in the grand procession across the capital.

Bandar Seri Begawan is bedecked with banners and billboards proclaiming divine blessings for the newlyweds.

Fireworks will light up the Brunei sky for three successive nights starting Friday, and popular performers from neighboring Malaysia will host musical variety shows.

Excited Bruneians were speculating whether the bride's shoes and bouquet would be studded with diamonds, like those of the sultan's daughter Princess Rashidah when she got married in 1997.

But for sure, sources said, the couple's garments will be made of fabric accented with gold thread.

### Dress code

The office of the sultan has not released information on the banquet menu, although wine is definitely out because Brunei is an Islamic society.

Since Thursday's ceremonies will be held in the daytime, protocol guidelines require all guests outside of the royal family to wear dark-colored clothes. The royals are free to wear garments of any color to set them apart.

During the banquet, which will be held at night, all guests should be dressed in white, again except for the royal family.

At the palatial Empire Hotel on the city's fringes, staff yesterday stepped up preparations for the guests, including the Duke of Gloucester and two Saudi princes.

Sources said Bahrain's king and his entourage have booked the $13,000-a-night Emperor's Suite, and the next most expensive room, the Empress Suite.

Japan's Prince Naruhito, who is coming alone after Princess Masako decided to skip the wedding due to health reasons, is staying at the presidential suite, the third most expensive room.

The government leaders will occupy lower-rate but still expensive suites and, a source familiar with the arrangements told AFP, "each VIP guest will be assigned his or her own butler." *AFP*

## Not a question . . .

**From page A1**

kit and caboodle—including her brother-in-law, her sons' wives and her two granddaughters, plus their nannies—on her recent state visit to China.

"Philippine culture is based on family, and I have such little quality time with my family considering my heavy workload," the President said yesterday at the Manila Overseas Press Club's breakfast forum.

On top of which, she added, obviously unruffled by criticism that she had turned the event into a family vacation, "it did not cost the government a [single] centavo."

But Malacañang continued to hold back disclosure of the exact amount spent on the China trip. The Palace earlier said the family entourage within the official party was a "private matter."

"Personal family decision" was how deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo put it. "The question of who in the family goes is a question for the family because it is their expense and not the government's," Saludo said during a press briefing also yesterday.

The media didn't look into the personal affairs of every person who went abroad, he said. "We should accord the same privacy to the First Family, [provided] they do not use government funds."

Asked about the propriety of the First Family thus flaunting their wealth, Saludo said: "I don't think [the President] did that to show off. She did that because of a family decision to be together."

He lamented that the issue had been "belabored to the point that it is no longer helpful to public policy."

The much-awaited statement of expenses would be released only after the Commission on Audit had gone through the details, Saludo said. Meanwhile, he assured reporters: "Spending for the trip was no more, and probably less, than previous trips undertaken by the government."

But he had no data to support this claim.

Although family members had previously joined presidential foreign travels, the China trip caused a stir because it came on the heels of Ms Arroyo's repeated calls for austerity, including cutting government travel expenses.

Miffed by the public censure, the President said the restrictions did not mean government officials could no longer go on foreign trips. "The travel ban is for those who use government money. If it's not government money, by all means go, because you support the travel industry. What we want to be austere about is government funds such as per diems, transportation and clothing allowances."

Ms Arroyo is scheduled to take one trip abroad for each of the remaining months of the year. She flies to Brunei tomorrow to attend a wedding in the sultan's family.

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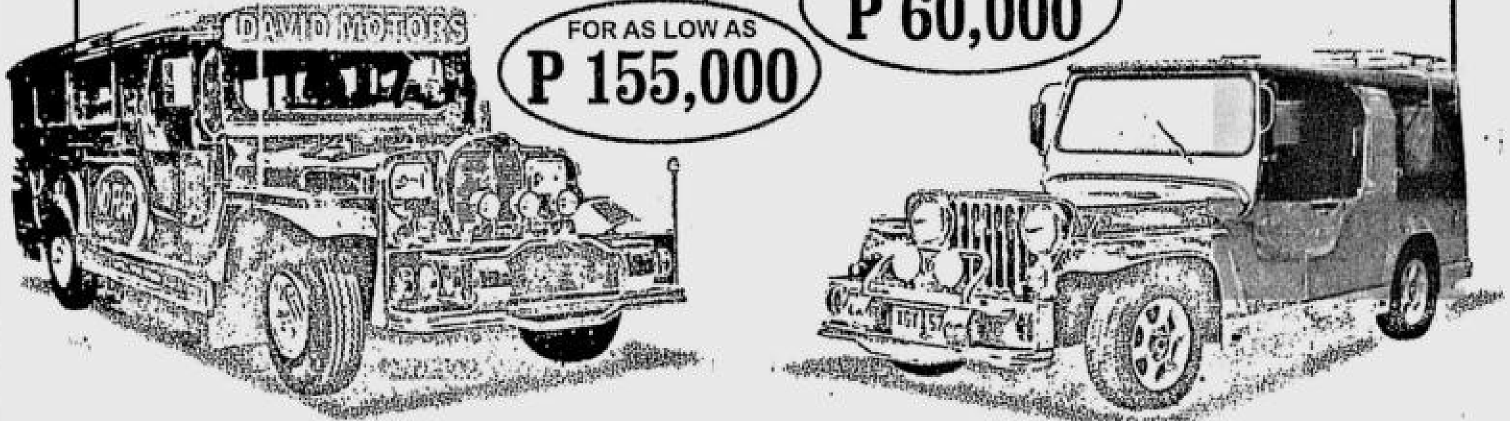

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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Suicide blast kills 7 US Marines in Iraq

**BAGHDAD—A suicide attacker sped up to a US military convoy outside Fallujah and detonated an explosives-packed vehicle, killing seven Marines and three Iraqi soldiers, US military officials said. It was the deadliest day for American forces in four months.**

The force of the blast on a dusty stretch of wasteland 14 km north of Fallujah, a hotbed of Sunni insurgents, wrecked two Humvee vehicles on Monday and hurled the suicide car's engine far from the site, witnesses and military officials said.

The bombing underscored the challenges that US commanders face in securing Fallujah and surrounding Anbar province, the heartland of a Sunni Muslim insurgency bent on driving coalition forces from the country.

US forces have not patrolled in Fallujah since ending a three-week siege of the city in April that had been aimed at rooting out militiaman. Insurgents have only strengthened their hold on Fallujah since then.

With Monday's deaths, 990 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to a count by The Associated Press based on Pentagon figures.

The military condemned the bombing as "a desperate act of inhumanity" but insisted American troops would stay the course in Iraq until local forces were in a position to take over security operations. The slain Americans belonged to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Hours after the attack, an unmanned US spy plane crashed in Fallujah. Afterward, jubilant residents picked up pieces of debris and danced in the streets, displaying pieces of the aircraft to reporters, witnesses said.

Since the Marine siege ended, gunmen have been using the city a base to manufacture car bombs and launch attacks on US and Iraqi government forces. Fallujah has become a virtual no-go zone for US troops, although American warplanes have repeatedly carried out air strikes against alleged militant safe houses there.

In Baghdad, US forces battled insurgents loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr in the slum of Sadr City on Tuesday, killing at least 34 people.

US Army Capt. Brian O'Malley said the American soldier was killed by small arms fire and that several others were wounded when militants attacked US forces carrying out routine patrols.

A senior Iraqi health ministry official said 33 people had been killed and 193 injured in the Sadr City clashes in the past 24 hours. He said 15 people died and 67 were wounded on Tuesday morning alone.

The renewed fighting came after a period of calm in the impoverished neighborhood after Sadr called on his followers last week to observe a ceasefire and announced that he planned to enter politics. *AP*

## School raid involved months of planning

MOSCOW—Militants appear to have planned their seizure of a Russian school carefully, starting months earlier and sneaking weapons into the building in advance. Still, some of the raiders may not have known what they were getting into and were appalled to find they were holding children hostage.

There are indications that some of the objecting militants were killed by their own comrades.

Pieces of the picture of how militants took more than 1,000 hostages at the school in Beslan reveal months of cold, careful planning.

Officials are saying little publicly, but Russian news reports citing unspecified but presumably official sources portray the raid as a fastidiously prepared operation taking place almost literally under authorities' noses.

School No. 1 in Beslan is only about 200 meters from the local police department headquarters.

"Why the law-enforcement bodies didn't know and why they allowed a column of fighters to get into the city past all checkpoints—this is something that can be judged only through rumors," the newspaper Novye Izvestia said Monday.

Russian news agencies cited unnamed security sources as saying that the planners of the raid were believed to have scouted at least two schools in Beslan.

"Judging by everything, they felt the better one for their goals was the main building of School No. 1 with its half-basement gymnasium annex, where the floor had to be replaced," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted a law-enforcement official as saying.

"The bandits were able to bring into the school a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, equipment and explosives, under the guise of planks, cement and other building material, enough to defend the seized place for a long period," news agency quoted the official as saying. *AP*

**RELATIVES** of victims of the Russian hostage siege mourn under a heavy rain at the cemetery in Beslan, North Ossetia, Sept. 6. AFP

## Putin rejects calls for talks with Chechen rebels

BESLAN, Russia—Mourners prepared caskets, wreaths and once-cherished toys to carry to the fast-growing town cemetery for a third day of burials in this southern Russian town on Tuesday, and Russian President Vladimir Putin denied a link between Russia's policies in Chechnya and the hostage-taking that claimed more than 350 lives.

In an interview late Monday with foreign journalists and academics, Putin again rejected Western calls for negotiations with Chechen rebel representatives, Britain's Guardian newspaper reported.

"Why don't you meet Osama bin Laden, invite him to Brussels or to the White House and engage in talks, ask him what he wants and give it to him so he leaves you in peace?" the Guardian quoted Putin as saying sarcastically.

"You find it possible to set some limitations in your dealings with these bastards, so why should we talk to people who are child-killers?"

Putin said foreigners should have "no more questions about our policy in Chechnya" after the attackers shot children in the back, and said the Chechen cause was aimed at undermining all of southern Russia and majority-Muslim regions of the country.

"This is all about Russia's territorial integrity," Putin was quoted as saying.

He also said his government would conduct an internal investigation but not a public one—warning that a parliamentary probe could turn into "a political show." Two opposition politicians had called Monday for an investigation, including into the questions of whether the authorities had prior information about planned terrorist attacks, and what the government was doing to stabilize the situation in Chechnya.

In Vladikavkaz, the North Ossetian capital about 30 km north of Beslan, hundreds of people gathered on central Freedom Square on Tuesday to protest against terrorism and to castigate local authorities for failing to prevent last week's tragedy.

"Today we will bury our children and tomorrow we will come here and throw these devils out of their seats, from the lowest director up to ministers and the president," said one of the speakers, who refused to identify himself to reporters.

"Corrupt authority is a source of terrorism," said a poster held above in the crowd. Along with thin wax candles, which they lit and placed along the square, protesters distributed fliers calling for North Ossetian President Alexander Dzasokhov to step down. *AP*

## Chechen war marked by violations of human rights

LONDON—In war-ravaged Chechnya, civilians disappear almost every day, seized from their homes by Russian forces who later dump bodies bearing the marks of torture, say human rights advocates.

The bloody conflict that forms the backdrop to last week's deadly school seizure and other terror attacks blamed on Chechen fighters is marked by abuses that Amnesty International has labeled war crimes.

Russian troops who torture, rape and kill detainees in the separatist province are rarely investigated or punished, creating an atmosphere of lawlessness, say Amnesty and Human Rights Watch.

Years of fighting in Chechnya—the first war there raged from 1994 to 1996 and fighting started again in 1999—have been marked by atrocities committed by both Russian federal troops and Chechen rebels, observers say.

With disappearances and violence a daily occurrence in Chechnya, "the amount of anger and... insecurity is growing," said Alexander Petrov, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Moscow office.

"In conditions like this, of course, rebels are able to manage very easily to recruit new fighters to their ranks and to easily find so-called 'black widows'"—grief-stricken or helpless women who turn to violence after losing husbands or male relatives in the Chechen fighting.

Both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty have warned about widespread abuses in Chechnya for years.

"'Disappearances,' arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial executions and attacks by armed opposition groups continue," Amnesty said in a June report. "Such abuses, many of which constitute war crimes, are overwhelmingly committed with impunity, the majority of investigations which are undertaken are at best inconclusive and very few perpetrators are ever identified and brought to justice." *AP*

## Israeli air strike leaves 14 militants dead

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli helicopters attacked a Hamas training field in Gaza City early Tuesday, killing at least 14 militants and wounding 30 others in the deadliest air strike on Palestinian militants in four years of violence.

The attack came a week after Hamas suicide bombers blew up two buses in the Israeli city of Beersheba, killing 16 people.

Hamas vowed revenge for Tuesday's air strike. Hours later, Palestinian militants fired rounds of mortars and homemade rockets at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and Israeli towns bordering the coastal area. One Israeli in the border town of Sderot was lightly wounded in a rocket attack, rescue officials said.

The Israeli Army said it struck a field that Hamas used to train militants for firing mortars and rockets. In the past month, Hamas assembled a large bomb and a suicide bomber's explosives belt at the training camp, the army added.

In Gaza, children stayed home from school on Tuesday and shops remained closed in a sign of mourning. Black smoke billowed over the city as students burned tires at spontaneous demonstrations.

Mosque loudspeakers amplified excerpts from the Koran and announced that a joint funeral for the dead militants would begin at 1 p.m.

During the past four years of fighting, Israel has frequently targeted Palestinian militants through air strikes and other military operations.

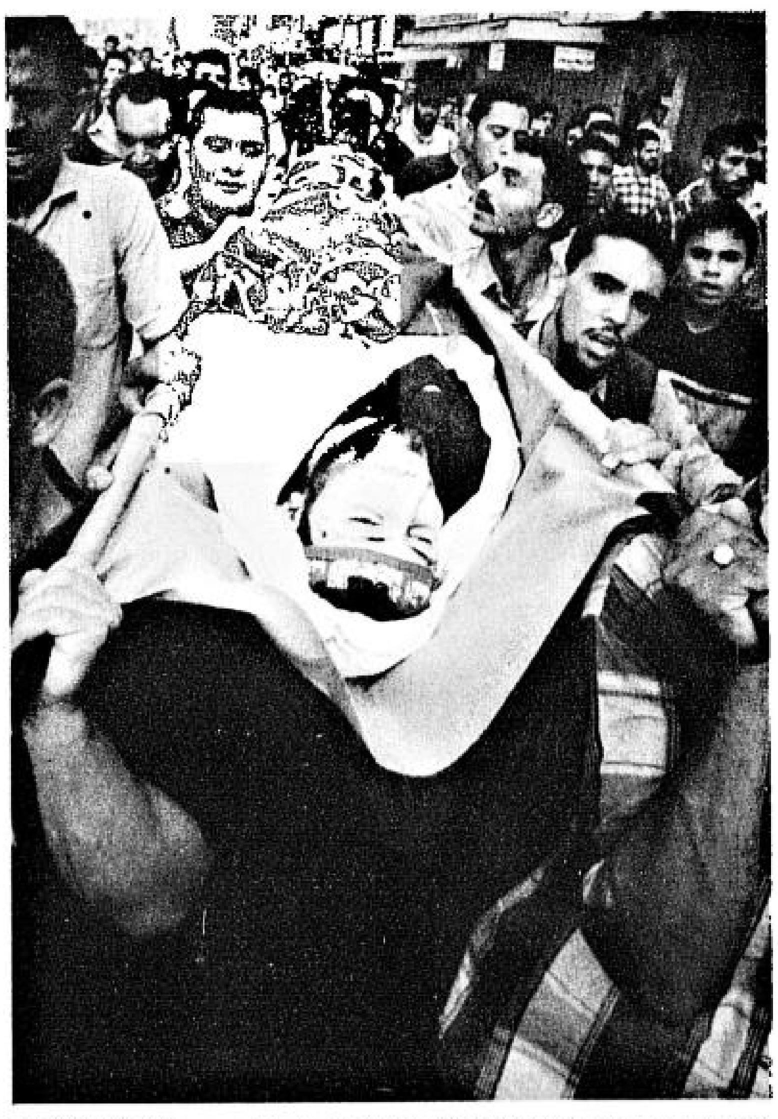
But the strikes are usually aimed at very specific targets—usually senior members of the group or militants on their way to an attack.

In March, an Israeli strike killed Hamas founder and spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin. Three weeks later, in a similar air strike, the Army killed Yassin's successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Tuesday's attack was the first time the Army had targeted such a large gathering of militants.

This policy, which Israel calls "targeted killings," has enraged the Palestinians and drawn international condemnation, especially because of frequent civilian casualties.

In one of the deadliest attacks, Israel killed a Hamas military wing leader, Salah Shehadeh, along with 14 others, including nine children, in a July 2002 bombing by an F-16 warplane. The attack was supposed to kill only Shehadeh. *AP*



**PALESTINIANS** carry the body of one of the militants killed in an Israeli attack on a Hamas training camp during funerals in Gaza City. REUTERS

## Early return of Anwar to politics seen

**ANWAR**

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's highest court on Tuesday began an appeals hearing that could erase newly freed former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's criminal record and allow him back into politics.

Anwar, 57, was walking in his hospital room three hours after successful back surgery Monday in Munich, Germany, to repair damage that he maintained was caused by a police beating in custody in 1998, aides said in statement.

The three-judge panel of the Federal Court unanimously dismissed prosecution objections to allowing a rare appeal of the court's earlier ruling that had upheld Anwar's conviction for corruption.

Anwar's attorneys immediately began arguing against the court's previous refusal to quash the conviction, issued when Anwar's foe, retired Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, was still in office.

But the hearings adjourned until Wednesday after the lawyers disputed among themselves whether to attack the original conviction as a political conspiracy, or to stick to technical legal issues.

Anwar, contacted in Germany, gave the go-ahead to use the conspiracy theory, attorney Sankara Nair told reporters. But the legal team will need to inform the court of its final plans on Wednesday.

If the conviction is eventually overturned, Anwar would be free of a five-year ban on former felons running for office or leading parties. *AP*

# Hurricane leaves Florida in shambles, threatens Georgia

TAMPA, Florida—"Frances" completed its two-day assault on Florida, leaving storm-weary residents Tuesday with flooding, frayed nerves and long lines for everyday items such as gas, ice and water. At least 10 deaths were blamed on the storm in Florida and Georgia.

About 3 million people had no power in Florida and more than 40,000 more were without electricity in Georgia because of winds that downed trees, limbs and power lines. Schools in 56 Georgia counties were closed Tuesday.

The onetime-hurricane had weakened to a tropical depression early Tuesday and was pouring up to 12.7 cm of rain on south-central Georgia, with another 5.08 to 10.16 cm possible overnight. Several tornadoes were reported in Georgia.

The storm caused flooding in parts of Tampa, forcing police to patrol streets with two amphibious tanks and close about a mile of a busy thoroughfare. More than 100 residents of a retirement home were evacuated in wheelchairs as floodwaters sloshed against their feet.

Residents of the Florida Panhandle withstood the tropical storm's heavy rain and winds of 104 kph on Labor Day, ruining the holiday weekend that forced most of the state to deal with the storm and its aftermath.

Along the Atlantic coast, motorists waited for gasoline in lines stretching up to 8 km while there was heavy demand for water, ice and basic supplies. About 1,500 people gathered at a Wal-Mart in Palm Beach County while up the coast in Fort Pierce, hundreds of people stood in a line with buckets and ice chests on a sunny, steamy afternoon.

"This has been a long haul," said 64-year-old Judy Duffy, of Fort Pierce, who searched with her husband for ice and water but drove away from a distribution line with an empty cooler. "It's tested my patience. I'm not a nice person today—I haven't had my coffee."

At a Florida Turnpike rest stop in West Palm Beach, an 8-km line of motorists waited for fuel.

Frances charged into Florida's east coast early Sunday, ripping off roofs, smashing boats and flooding West Palm Beach streets up to more than a meter deep.

The hurricane did more damage to the Kennedy Space Center than any storm in history, ripping an estimated 1,000 exterior panels from a building where spaceships are assembled. No space shuttles were inside the building, but center director James Kennedy said he feared the damage could set back Nasa's effort to resume shuttle launches next spring.

Nine deaths in Florida were blamed on Frances, including a grandson and a former son-in-law of Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden, who died in a collision on a rain-slippery highway.

And in Georgia, officials said an 18-year-old woman died Monday after the car she was riding in hydroplaned and overturned during the storm. There were two earlier deaths in the Bahamas, where Frances forced thousands from their homes. *AP*

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## WorldBriefs

### China floods kill 100

SHANGHAI, China—Floods unleashed by torrential rains have killed at least 100 people and left dozens more missing in southwestern China, prompting authorities to put the massive Three Gorges hydroelectric project on alert. Authorities called in more than 5,000 Army and Navy personnel to help after five days of continual downpours in Sichuan province. An alert was ordered and navigation halted after flood crests passed through the Three Gorges Dam along the flood-swollen Yangtze River, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. More rains were expected, it said. *AP*

### Typhoon pounds Japan

TOKYO—A powerful typhoon pounded Japan's southern main island of Kyushu with heavy rains and strong winds Tuesday, forcing thousands to evacuate their homes and knocking out power to over a million households. Across the country 75 people were injured, Kyodo News reported, while 22 crew members of an Indonesian cargo ship were missing. Police and Coast Guard were also investigating reports that a Russian-registered freighter had sunk in western Hiroshima prefecture (state) and its 19 crew were missing. Packing winds of up to 144 km per hour, Typhoon "Songda" plowed into the city of Nagasaki, about 980 km southwest of Tokyo, before it roared across western Honshu, dumping heavy rains and unleashing fierce winds in its path. *AP*

### 'Ivan' threatens Caribbean

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—Islanders braced for Hurricane "Ivan," scrambling to put up storm shutters and buy water, just days after Hurricane "Frances" tore across the Caribbean. Ivan was approaching Barbados on Monday night with sustained winds of 168 kph. Forecasters warned the storm could strengthen by Tuesday. A hurricane warning was issued for Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada; and a tropical storm warning for St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Martinique. *AP*

### Doubts over ransom bid

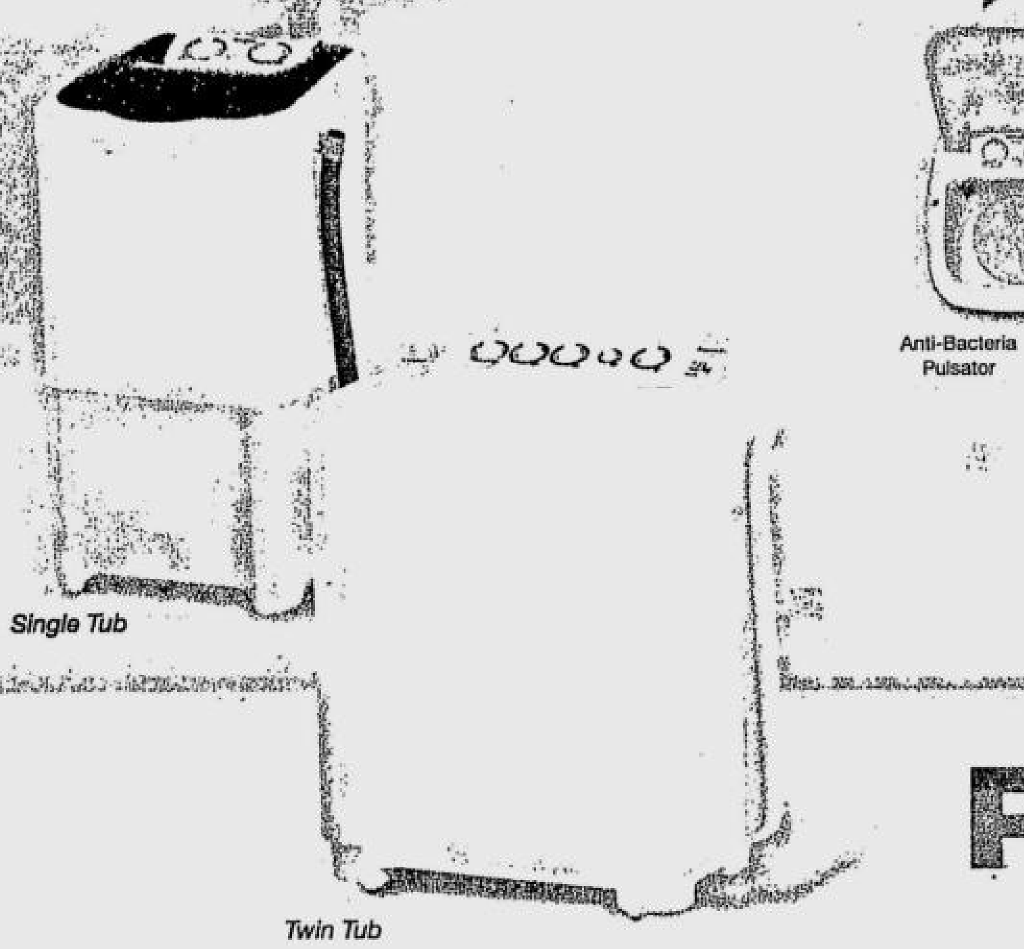
PARIS—Experts on Islamic militant groups are skeptical about a Web posting demanding US$5 million in ransom for two French journalists held hostage in Iraq, France's prime minister said Monday. "We always treat such information seriously," Jean-Pierre Raffarin told RTL radio. But the new message "has provoked a lot of skepticism from experts." Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot disappeared Aug. 20 on a trip to the southern Iraqi city of Najaf. Intense negotiations by French diplomats and overwhelming support from the Arab world and France's own large Muslim community raised hopes last week for the journalists' imminent release. The militants claiming to hold the men have demanded that France revoke a law banning Islamic head scarves from state schools. The law went into effect as planned last week, and France has refused to back down. *AP*

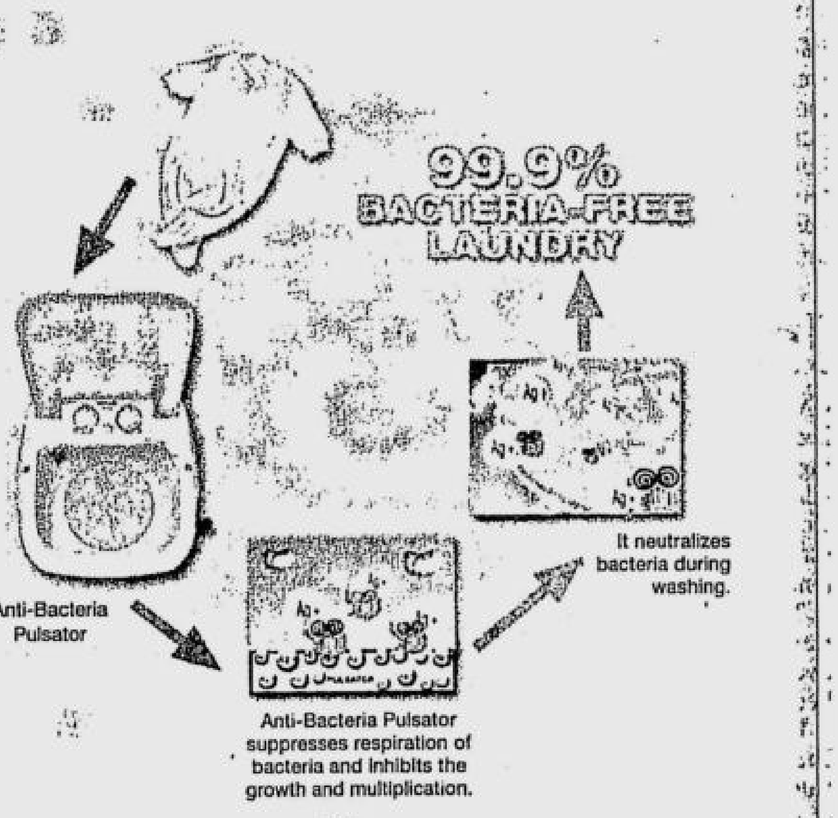
### Unfinished business

TOKYO—A Japanese aid worker held hostage by Iraqi militants for a week in April said Tuesday she hopes to return to Iraq to continue her humanitarian work. "I think I'll go back. There is still a lot of unfinished business there for me," Nahoko Takato told the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. Takato was one of three Japanese taken hostage by insurgents who threatened to burn them alive unless Tokyo withdrew its troops from Iraq. Two other Japanese were taken hostage separately in Iraq around the same time. Japan refused to withdraw its troops, and all five were later released unharmed. *AP*

### High on spider venom

SYDNEY—Inmates in an Australian prison have been caught breeding deadly redback spiders that they milked for venom to inject themselves for a high, according to government records. Four spiders—with venom that can kill children and the elderly with a single painful bite—were found in Grafton maximum security prison in New South Wales state on Feb. 15. Prison authorities suspect inmates found the spiders, which are common in Australia, in the prison nursery. They bred the spiders in jars, milked them of venom which they diluted with water before injecting, opposition Liberal Party justice spokesperson Andrew Humpherson said. "It just shows how comfortable they are—actually accessing and in this case breeding their own source of venom; their own source of drugs," Humpherson told reporters, in an attack on the Labor-led state government's law and order policies. *AP*





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# Oink (again)

**EDITORIAL**

THERE is a saying in the American South that the only part of the pig politicians don't use is the oink. Here it can be said that when it comes to the pork barrel of our legislators the only thing the people get is the oink.

A typical oink came from Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye who, in response to the loud public clamor to abolish the congressional pork barrel, issued a statement saying that really, the pork barrel isn't so bad. At a time when there is a groundswell of support for eliminating the pork barrel, a public feeling being shared even by a growing number of politicians, the last thing the country needs is an official defense of the pork barrel coming from Malacañang.

And yet it has been made, and we have heard this type of reasoning before: guns don't kill, people do; drinking and gambling don't destroy lives, drunkards and gamblers do. Which ignores the responsibility of the state to ensure that people aren't given the means to irresponsibly destroy their lives or that of others. When it comes to illegal drugs, for example, we may all agree to save the user by offering rehabilitation, but we also all agree to jail the pusher—which also means cracking down on trafficking in illegal drugs.

The same responsibility applies to the pork barrel, the most addictive and pernicious political drug there is, next to armed terrorism. Whatever good things may be said in defense of the pork barrel, the fact remains that it is not only a cause of corruption among politicians but it also fosters breaking the law among private contractors, civil servants, and promotes cynicism and selfishness among their constituency. The pork barrel system as it has mutated over the years, is so thoroughly rotten, so totally without merit or fiscal logic, that it must be eliminated completely.

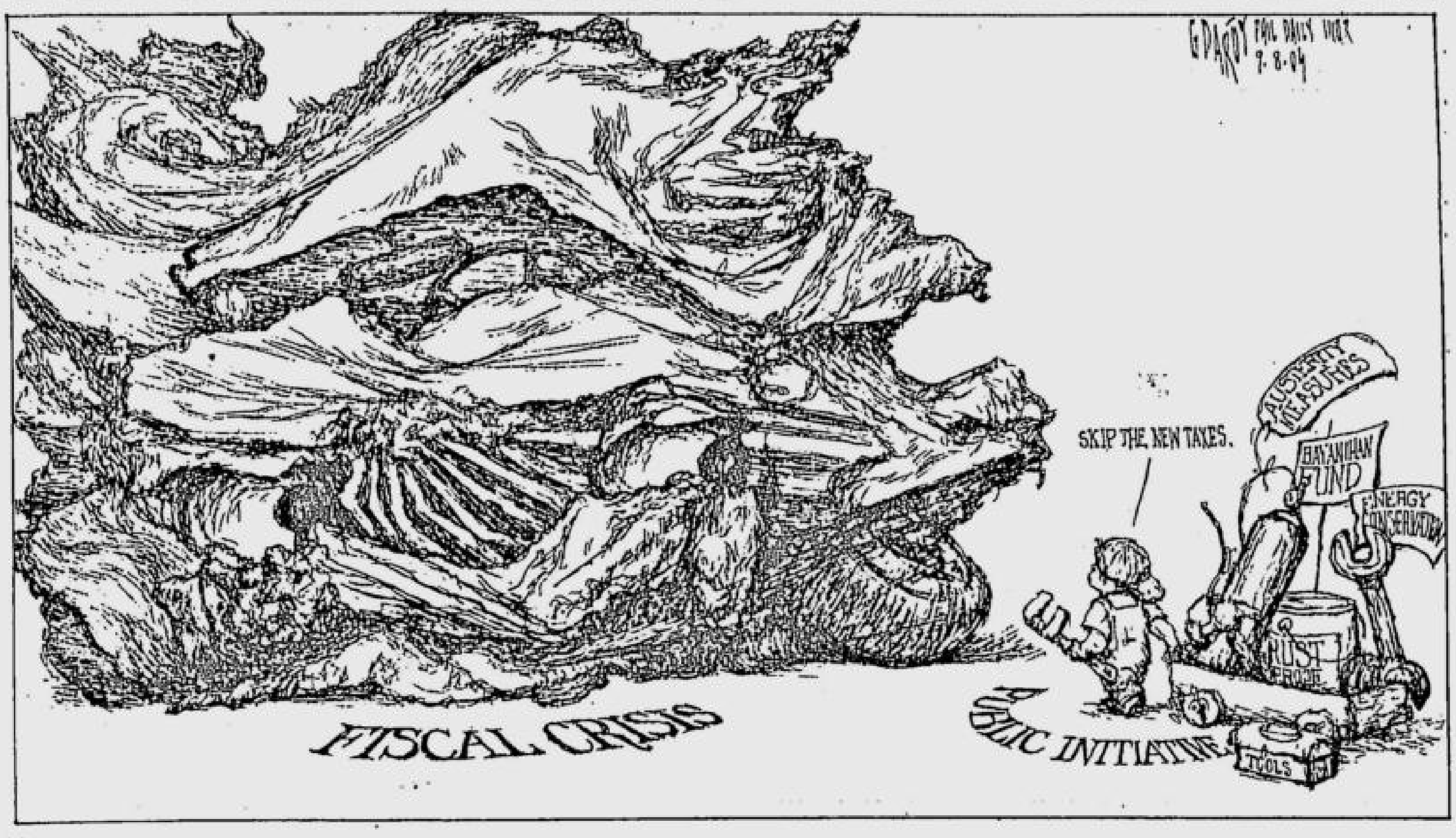
Just how thoroughly corrupt and counterproductive the pork barrel has become is best illustrated by what foreign observers say of our politicians. Even jaded types point out that while the Philippines is far from being unusual in having so many politicians and contractors out to skim funds from the pork barrel, the greed of our politicians and their friends is without equal. There is simply no end to it. And reports such as those of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism indicate that the skimming of percentages has become quite institutionalized on a national level. Foreigners will tell any Filipino who will listen that the problem is that our politicians don't know when to stop, and neither do their friends.

Filipino expatriates who live in countries that also see numerous cases of corruption often say the same thing. The difference between our corruption, for example, and the crookedness that occurs in some of our neighboring countries, is that a P10-million road will be built in another country at a cost of P15 million, while here at home, we get a P1-million road after spending P10 million.

Should Malacañang then argue degrees of utility, with varying shades of ambiguity, when to the rest of us and even some of our politicians who still have a conscience, everything is crystal clear? The pork barrel is bad. It is bad because it transforms public service into an instrument for personal gain and cronyism as well as a source of corruption for both the public and private sectors. It is bad because it diverts our nation's resources into private pockets and by its very nature makes it easier to break the law than follow it. We can obsess on the anatomy of corruption all we want, but until the putrefying flesh is buried once and for all, it will stink.

There are rare times when public opinion is able to inspire our leaders to give up the means to retain power, and these are such times. And yet what do we have, but an administration, which got the ball rolling by calling for a 40-percent cut in the pork barrel, now trying to stop the very momentum it tried to create. The public has to wonder at the kind of leadership that is able to latch on to issues that resonate with the public, only to devote its energies to disproving any benefits from its own proposals.

Could it be that having succeeded in getting the Filipino people interested in addressing the looming financial crisis, Malacañang is now afraid of the results?



# GMA not serious about tax reforms, graft, deficit

## As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

AT A FORUM where President Macapagal-Arroyo was being interviewed, I happened to sit with a group of Chinese businessmen who were with the presidential party in that terror-filled (for the businessmen) flight to China. One of them immediately disagreed with my Sept. 6 column about what transpired on board, when they reportedly contributed P350 million to what is now known as the Bayanihan Fund. "You were wrong," he said. "It (the contributions) was not a matter of pride; it was a matter of fear."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Well, it was not voluntary contribution; it was more like coercion and extortion," he said. "You know us Chinese, we are easy to scare."

"That was the sky version of a bus holdup," another chimed in, "with the passengers unable to escape."

"Well, robbery is the next step after theft," said the first.

"Why, what's the difference between theft and robbery?" asked the second.

"Well," replied the first, "theft is what the congressmen have been doing with the pork barrel. Robbery was what the Speaker just did."

"That was not simple robbery," a third joined in. "That was robbery in band."

"It was really scary. There was no escape. I made several trips to the lavatory to escape notice, but every time I came out, he was still there pointing a finger at us and counting millions of pesos."

"I wanted to jump out of the plane, but it was flying at 35,000 feet."

* * *

I don't think the President is serious about tax reforms, reducing the budget deficit, and curbing graft and corruption. Malacañang just defended the pork barrel of legislators, the most glaring example of corruption and wastage of taxpayers' money, and the same pork that she wanted cut by 40 percent and which the whole nation wants abolished completely. And the President herself announced that she has no intention of taxing religious schools for the rich that rake in millions of pesos in profits, as many have proposed to help raise funds for the cash-strapped government. At the same time, she wants to increase and impose new taxes on the ordinary citizens who are already hard put making both ends meet. How can she do this?

As even the high priests who want to be tax-exempt will agree, the President and Congress have no moral right to increase taxes if the pork barrel in the whole government is not abolished, those who can afford to pay are taxed properly, and the government itself tightens its belt.

"Let us all sacrifice and unite," she keeps repeating to the people. But she says one thing and means another. It turns out that what she means by "sacrifice" is for the little people to contribute their hard-earned money to the Bayanihan Fund so she and her officials can spend it for their perks and privileges.

Should not the leaders lead in making sacrifices so the people will follow? Should not the President set the example by abolishing her own pork, the P1-billion intelligence and social fund? Anyway, Pagcor already remits to her social fund P1 billion every year which is not included in the budget.

Among her austerity measures, she supposedly stopped all foreign travel by public officials. But why did she increase by P20 million the Travel Fund in her proposed budget? In fact, she herself is going on four more foreign trips before the year is over. She ordered a stop to advertisements by government offices, but why did she increase the Advertising Fund? If the government is so short of funds that it has resorted to begging, why did she increase the budget for the coming year?

She doesn't have to ask the permission of the legislators to reduce the pork barrel. They do not deserve any of it. It is a graft-ridden benefit that they give themselves every year. Their job is to enact laws, not to usurp the functions of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

All she has to do is to remove the appropriations for the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF)—the pork barrel by another name—from the budget and that's the end of it. Congress cannot put it back in because it cannot increase the proposed budget; it can only decrease it. To get even, Congress can remove all the pork in the executive department by abolishing the intelligence funds (which are not audited) and the discretionary funds of the President and her Cabinet. We already have intelligence agencies in the military, the police and the Office of the National Security Adviser and other departments do not need any intelligence funds. So that levels the playing field and the legislators do not have to fear the President's own pork.

By simply cutting all allowances by 20 percent, across the board, from the budget, GMA will be saving billions of pesos more.

A big portion of our foreign debt is made up of loans passed on to the national government by government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs). Napocor alone passed on at least P200 billion, equal to the budget deficit. Besides increasing power rates, which will bring more hardships to consumers, the same consumers will still be made to pay for these debts with the taxes they pay. They will be hit by a double whammy.

Yet Napocor officials are among the highest paid public officials. And they are not willing to give up any part of their perks. In private companies undergoing financial problems, executives voluntarily take pay cuts, but not public officials. They make small wage earners contribute to a Bayanihan Fund but are not willing to make their own sacrifices.

The same is true of other GOCCs. But their executives are still wallowing in wealth. Shouldn't they make sacrifices, too?

# Isle of Tortuga

## There's the Rub

*Conrado de Quiros*

A COUPLE of things have happened over the last couple of months. The first is that Edu Manzano has taken the place of Bong Revilla as head of the Videogram Regulatory Board and has been just as resolute, and unenlightened, about ridding this part of the world of pirates. I read about his misadventure in Virra Mall a couple of weeks ago in the Business section of the INQUIRER. The editors had the good sense to keep it small, out of a very good sense of proportion, though I don't know how it fared in the entertainment pages.

What happened apparently was that he stormed into Virra Mall in the company of cops and confiscated the DVDs sundry vendors were selling there. I know the place; I've been there. Though not as a customer of DVD, the reason for that being financial judgment rather than moral scruple: the Muslims in Quiapo sell the stuff much cheaper. But I have been to Virra Mall, at one point quite frequently, for the software and the MP3 discs. The only reason I am no longer going there frequently is that I've shifted to DSL, the broadband Internet service, and can now procure both without having to brave Metro Manila's traffic. That is through the wonders of downloading. I'll get to that point later.

Anyway, Manzano stormed into Virra Mall and began carting off the DVDs for sale on the stalls there and earned for his pains a lot of boos and hisses and catcalls. He apparently took them all in stride, figuring sticks and stones might break his bones but not boos and hisses and catcalls. But the latter took the equivalent of sticks and stones at one point in the form of crumpled pieces of paper and fruits which flew his way while he and company were climbing down the stairs.

That brought out the action star in him. He swiftly ran up the stairs, drew out a gun, and pointed it at his tormentors, while passersby screamed and scampered for safety. His tormentors appeared to be cowed, until he proceeded to descend the stairs again, when one of them shouted with wry glee, "*Idol, makakaganti rin ako sa yo* (Idol, I'll get back at you someday)."

The second thing that happened over the last couple of months is the remarkable explosion of (pirated) DVD titles. They now include not just Hollywood classics but classics from other countries as well, or at least movies from other countries that have reaped numerous awards. I remember saying in a column a year or so ago that my only misgiving about the pirated DVDs circulating in our midst was their quality. By that I did not mean technical quality, though some of the stuff was absolutely wretched in that respect—even the ones that were already copied from DVDs and not ripped off from promotional copies or from screenings in movie theaters. It had to do with the extent of compression, but never mind that, leave that to the techies. What I meant by it was that the titles were largely an action-movie-lover's paradise. Occasionally, you found a "Cinema Paradiso" among the Steven Seagal movies, but it was just that, occasionally. I said then that the day the "Pirates of Carriedo" (as a T-shirt I got for Christmas puts it) realized there was a huge market out there for serious movies—indeed the day they began improving the public taste by putting out movie classics instead of movie rejects—was the day their claim to existence became more ironclad.

That day has come. These days you will not just find Seagal and Stallone and Van Damme in the stalls, you will find John Ford, Charlie Chaplin and Alfred Hitchcock there. You will even find Sergei Eisenstein and D.W. Griffith, whose "Battleship Potemkin" and "Birth of a Nation" spawned the birth of movies on this battleship earth. Astonishingly, Akira Kurosawa's works are amply represented. I've seen variously "Dreams," "Rashomon," "The Seven Samurai," "Red Beard," "The Hidden Fortress," "Throne of Blood" and "The Idiot." I don't know what others there are. I've been looking for his "High and Low" but haven't found it yet.

More importantly, you'll find movies from France, Spain and Germany, along with those from China, Taiwan, Iran, Greece and Thailand. You'll find such exotic titles as Santosh Sivan's "Asoka," Bahman Ghobadi's "Marooned in Iraq," Emir Kusturica's "Underground," Abbas Kiarostami's "Ten," and Sadigh Barmak's "Osama." The last has nothing to do with Bin Laden, it has to do with a girl who passes herself as a boy to find work in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

The old Hollywood classics are there in profusion as well, including those movies I thrilled to as a kid: "The Adventures of Robin Hood," "Scaramouche" and "The Three Musketeers." The last starred Gene Kelly who makes up for not being able to dance in the movie with a lot of friskiness: never has D'Artagnan been more frenetically kinetic.

The black-and-whites are there, and I'm personally curious how they fare. They include "Citizen Kane," "How Green Was My Valley," and "Casablanca," Oscar winners all. The old John Wayne movies are there as well, though I ceased to be a fan of his in my college days when I found his politics far too reactionary for my taste. It wasn't just his hawkish views on Vietnam, it was also his justification of blacks having inferior roles in Hollywood movies.

I used to see only a handful of people patronizing the pirated DVDs three years ago when they first appeared in Quiapo, Virra Mall and other places. Now there's always a crowd there, especially on weekends, including the well-heeled. In fact, I have yet to know any movie lover, resident or visitor, who hasn't bought a pirated DVD in his or her life. Show me one, and I'll show you a saint or a fool.

What to do in the face of this? What rational policy to pursue?

I leave that for tomorrow.

# Why Cebu as second Malacañang?

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

DURING HER inauguration last June 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo bifurcated the inauguration with two ceremonies. She delivered her inaugural speech at the Quirino Grandstand in the Luneta, and a few hours later she took her oath of office in Cebu City.

When President Joseph Estrada was inaugurated on June 30, 1998, he split the event by taking his oath at Barasoain Church, in Malolos, and delivered his inaugural speech at the Luneta. The oath-taking at Barasoain was symbolic. The church was the site of the first Revolutionary Republic in 1899. He sought to give his election a historical significance by associating it with the Revolution.

The significance he explained in his Luneta speech. "The common people have waited long for their turn, for their day to come," he said. "That day is here." On this "new day of the Filipino masses … one of their own is finally leading them."

President Arroyo had a different message when she took her oath before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., himself a son of Cebu, in the shadow of the historical umbrella of Mactan, where Filipinos first resisted foreign invasion by killing Ferdinand Magellan. The message was wrongly interpreted. The obvious interpretation was that the Cebu segment was an expression of gratitude for giving her a landslide win—more than a million votes—that overhauled her vote deficits in Metro Manila, Luzon and Mindanao.

In Cebu, she announced the city would be the Malacañang outside the national capital. The former offices of the Bureau of Customs were converted into "Malacañang sa Sugbo," her residence in the south, as well as part-time office.

The truth is that it was not Cebu alone that gave her the bulk of the votes that enabled her to make up for her losses in Luzon and Mindanao. It is reasonable to conclude that it was the vote of Central Visayas and Western Visayas that swept her to the presidency in May 2004.

During the inauguration, the enthusiasm and jubilation over her election were most pronounced in Cebu. While it rained in Manila during the Luneta inaugural speech, there was sunshine in Cebu and the streets where her motorcade passed from the Mactan airport to the Cebu City center were lined by enthusiastic people, reflecting the massive vote they gave her.

Their rapturous welcome was reciprocated. The President and her party stayed overnight in Cebu for the traditional diplomatic reception, and for street dancing among the common people in the evening.

The declaration of Cebu as an alternate seat of power outside Manila, albeit only part-time, has a larger symbolic meaning than just an expression of gratitude over a decisive electoral support. It means that the President has given concrete confirmation of the historic role of Cebu not only as the second city of the Philippines, and not just in economic but more so in political terms. The transfer to Cebu is a tangible blow for the irreversible decentralization of the Philippines toward regional centers and the devolution of power from Imperial Manila. It is symbolic of the gains of the regional autonomy movement embodied in the Local Autonomy Act, a process that can no longer be reversed and that is waiting for formalization by a constitutional mandate for federalism, whose impulse is most radiant from Cebu.

Historically, of all Philippine cities and regions, Cebu has been the cradle of political leadership since the Philippines started on the road to self-government in 1907, when the first national election for the Philippine Assembly gave birth to a constellation of regional leaders, the most outstanding of whom were Manuel L. Quezon of Luzon and Sergio Osmeña Sr. of Cebu. In fact, Osmeña was the foremost Filipino leader during the days of the Philippine Assembly, where he was the acknowledged leader of the legislature ahead of Quezon. As early as then, Cebu had wrested the crown from Imperial Manila, competing with it in both political preeminence and economic importance. It is this historical circumstance that has driven Cebu's autonomy movement, and Cebuano nationalism, which until today, refuses to acknowledge the Tagalog-based national language.

The undeniable economic reality is that Cebu is Metro Manila's rival as the dynamo of economic growth despite the fact that there is a large concentration of industries in the National Capital Region. Cebu is the undisputed shipping and air transport hub in the Visayan region and is the gateway to Mindanao. There are international flights in Mactan, making it the gateway both to Luzon and to Mindanao as well as the Visayas. Despite the paucity of natural resources, Cebu has an economic growth rate many times higher than the growth in Gross National Product. It is not facetious to compare Cebu with Singapore as a strategic economic and trade center. Cebu has a robust entrepreneurial community that is the motor of its economic growth.

If the movement for federalism or decentralization is going to accelerate at all, it already has a platform for the takeoff. It will be powered from Cebu, as a model for regional autonomy in both economic and political terms. If there is a viable model of regionally driven autonomous economic growth, not dependent on largesse from Manila, then Cebu is it.

Elections may come and go, but there is no doubt that Cebu will continue to have a pivotal role in the outcomes of presidential elections. This is not because of its solid vote but because Cebuanos have a political, commercial and entrepreneurial dynamism that makes it impossible to deny its destined role as the center of gravity of the decentralization movement.

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# Saving mothers' lives

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WHERE are we now? Where have we succeeded? Why and where? Seeking answers to these questions, NGOs around the world got together to compile data on how far various governments around the world have gone to meet the goals they committed to in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

The results are published in a "report card" that first ranks 133 countries (with a population of one million or more) on 13 indicators of reproductive health risk—from highest-risk to lowest-risk—then looks at 62 of the countries that have data on a smaller set of these indicators and ranks those countries on their direction and pace of change.

The Philippines, ranked as a "moderate risk" country, is counted among those that have made "significant progress" in the past decade, together with Tunisia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Peru.

But as was pointed out in a press conference during the Global Roundtable last week in London, the health of mothers and children even in these "progressive" countries still depends on where the starting point is in the first place. Though the Philippines may have made more progress in the last 10 years in meeting the ICPD goals, a woman still has better chances of surviving pregnancy and childbirth in Europe and the United States, and even in neighboring countries like Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, than in the Philippines.

And with the recent announcement of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit that it is not his department's responsibility to buy and distribute contraceptives, bring down the population growth rate or even promote family planning, what do you think are the chances of the country's winning a higher score on the global report card the next time around? What do you think are the chances that fewer Filipino women will die from pregnancy- or childbirth-related causes?

I'm not a gambling person, but I would wager the chances are nil. With the Department of Health, through Dayrit, washing its hands of any responsibility for the reproductive health of citizens, I can foresee the number of unwanted and unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, unsafe abortions and risky childbirths increasing dramatically.

* * *

**A TOTAL of 23 countries, including the Philippines, have made significant progress in meeting the Cairo commitments, true, but 17 countries, including the United States, have achieved little or nothing, or actually lost ground.**

**Some key findings of the "report card":**

- **Access to contraceptives has improved worldwide, but 123 million couples want to wait before having another child, yet cannot get access to effective family planning methods.**
- **More women hold policymaking offices worldwide, but women are still under-represented in parliaments.**
- **Much of the world has made significant progress toward gender parity in secondary school enrolment.**
- **Despite some liberalization of abortion laws, one in every 10 pregnancies still ends in unsafe abortion—about 19 million per year. Unsafe abortion kills one woman every seven minutes.**
- **The rate of adolescent pregnancy remains much the same as it was in 1994.**
- **A woman dies every minute from the complications of pregnancy or childbirth. Little progress has been made since 1994 to save these women's lives.**
- **Many more women are in the formal workforce than in 1994, but they still earn less than men in most places.**
- **HIV infection rates have increased exponentially since 1994 and in many countries, women now account for more than half of those infected.**

* * *

NO other indicator, said Hilary Benn, secretary of state for international development of the United Kingdom, illustrates the dramatic difference between the status of women in the developed and the developing world than maternal mortality.

"The difference in maternal deaths between rich and poor countries is staggering," Benn noted at the closing rites of "Countdown 2015." "A woman in sub-Saharan Africa is more than 200 times more likely to die of a complication of pregnancy or childbirth than a woman in the UK."

And the toll is paid not just in women's lives or women's health. "The social cost is huge," Benn said. "Two million children lose their mothers to maternal death each year. Lack of skilled care in childbirth, unsafe abortion, and sexual violence all contribute to a situation where women cannot take an active part in society. As a result they are excluded.

"Maternal health is essential to newborn health, and both are essential to development…"

And this is why, Benn said, the Department for International Development, which he heads, has just identified the reduction of maternal deaths worldwide as a key goal of Britain's global health programs.

* * *

**THOUGH the Blair government has been the staunchest supporter of the Bush administration's policies in Europe, especially regarding Iraq, it has clearly parted ways with "Dubya" on the matter of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Indeed, along with the rest of the European Union, the United Kingdom has stepped into the breach, filling in the funding gap created by the Bush administration's unilateral withdrawal of funding for international reproductive health programs, most especially from the UN Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).**

**"Maternal health and sexual and reproductive health and rights have always been a priority for DFID's work in developing countries," Benn said. Each year, according to DFID, some 80 million women face unwanted or unplanned pregnancy. About 20 million or one-fourth of these women will risk an unsafe abortion and 68,000 will die as a result. These deaths could be prevented by access to family planning services, safe abortion where it is legal, and post-abortion care.**

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# Sullen looks and 'footshakes'

**LOOKING BACK**

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

EVEN as an undergraduate student raiding the Filipiniana section of the university library for old travel accounts of the Philippines and the Filipinos, I would often get worked up by the racist and unfair comments made by foreigners about my country and people. This irritation doubled when the books came illustrated with photographs taken by Europeans during the late 19th century and even those taken by Americans in the early 20th century. I noticed that Filipinos in period photos did not or refused to smile for the camera.

Is smiling for the camera something that we do naturally today and was it not the norm in the past? The standard excuse has always been that due to the slow film speed, those being photographed a century ago were advised to sit still for the picture to come out well. If one did smile as we do today, one would have to keep the smile long after his teeth had gone dry to make sure there was no movement and thus no blurred detail in the resulting photograph.

Reviewing these photographs of "surly Filipinos" today, one has to examine the image and try to understand the context. Can we assume that early Filipinos look angry or distressed in photos because they were made to pose in certain ways or simply forced to pose in front of a camera? What about women from ethnic minorities made to pose topless for a foreigner? Context is indispensable for an appreciation of history.

When the Frenchman J. Mallat published his two-volume work on the Philippines in 1849, he did not have a camera. So he illustrated his work with prints that came separately as an atlas in a third volume. His impressions of the "indios," as we were then called, make me wonder how many people he examined and how he arrived at his conclusions. For example, he wrote: "All indio children are born with a more or less large blemish below the spine; as they grow, the blemish expands and gets discolored, ending up by blending with the general color of the skin, which remains darker."

I haven't seen this on people nowadays. What was Mallat talking about? If it was a birthmark, why the generalization?

His observations are quite quaint. Read on:

"One of the most singular traits shown by these people is their widespread toes which make it possible for them to easily grasp and pick up very small objects, like for example a cuarto, a coin worth three centimes; they also use their toes for climbing and grasping a rope. When an indio drops something, he picks it up with his feet without stooping, and he goes down the stays of a ship with his head below, like a cat. His big toe is often quite separated from the others, considerably extending his fulcrum, at the same time relating them in dexterity to the quadrumanes. If to this conformation is added a great suppleness in all articulations of the toes, one could imagine that an indio could, if one may say so, give one a footshake, like Europeans give a handshake."

While I know of a contemporary Filipino painter who uses his feet to paint, the act of using feet to pick up objects from the floor is something rarely seen today, except, perhaps, when you switch on an electric fan with your toes instead of your fingers. Have we changed that much in a century? In the days before remote-controlled television, one had to contend with a dial. Then there were push button models that were best enjoyed with one's feet. But all those are as old as dinosaurs today.

Going to another topic, watching all those deodorant and anti-perspirant commercials today makes me rethink what Mallat said about our sense of smell:

"Indios have an extraordinarily fine sense of smell; there are servants who recognize, after returning from the wash, the shirts of their master among those of 10 or 12 other persons, only by the odor. It is also claimed that if a man finds himself beside a woman of whom he is enamored, she guesses his sentiments from the odor of his perspiration, and vice-versa. As a sign of tenderness, they ask for a shirt which has been worn by the loved person, and when it has lost its odor, they change it with another one; for them it has the effect of a lock of hair in Europe."

I know of lovers who exchange used clothing or pillows when one of them leaves for a long trip, though I don't know if this has something to do with smell. I was also told that to keep a baby quiet in bed, you put something the mother has recently worn.

How much of Mallat's observations are accurate or made up, we can only guess. Comparing lowland Christian Filipinos with ethnic groups in the mountains like Igorots, Mallat noted very little difference in physique and that one distinguished the lowland Christian from the ethnic mountaineers by their costume when they were in the market. He added:

"The only difference seen in the features of their faces consists of greater development of the cheek-bones and the lower jaw, a result of this nomadic people having to chew often green and hard fruits for nourishment and sugar cane from which they extract the juice with their teeth. Civilized indios, on the contrary, eat only rice and foods easy to grind."

Reading Mallat today makes me laugh, and also makes me compare and contrast our times with the past and wonder if we are indeed better off today.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

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# An SUV personality?

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

THERE it was, looking like some mortally wounded prehistoric beast after it fell off Katipunan Avenue into a construction pit.

"It" was a Ford Expedition. In the car was Vandolph, actor Dolphy's son, and his friends. It was the second time he was involved in a serious vehicular accident, the first one resulting in the death of his girlfriend. If I remember right, the first accident also involved a sports utility vehicle (SUV).

By coincidence, the day the newspapers featured Vandolph's accident, I also had a column entitled, "What would Jesus drive?" featuring a US-based campaign to move toward more energy-efficient cars. The campaign includes strong criticism against SUVs for being not just gas-guzzlers but also dangerous cars, with a greater tendency to roll over.

But there may be more to the safety problem than the physical construction of the vehicles. I'm more concerned with the way the vehicle seems to correlate with particular personality traits. In that column, I said I was not surprised there were studies showing that SUV owners tended to have problems with self-esteem and to have less social responsibility.

### Self-oriented; other-oriented

Okay, I can hear some SUV owners protesting now, and I will warn against using research results to stereotype people. I do have friends who are SUV owners and they seem to be quite decent folks. Conversely, I also know really low life scumbags who don't own SUVs.

Yet, and this comes from many of my friends here and abroad, it's hard not to notice how SUV drivers seem to be more reckless and aggressive, if not arrogant. Then I start wondering if it's the vehicle that creates monsters, or if it is people, already obsessed with power, who make the SUVs so dangerous. Or maybe it's both humans and SUVs that bring out the worst in each other.

Back in 2000, The New York Times had an article summarizing some marketing research studies on car ownership; with a self-explanatory title: "Study: SUV owners 'self-oriented'; minivan drivers 'other-oriented'." These aren't small time studies. Strategic Vision, a market research company in San Diego, did one of the surveys involving 19,600 recent buyers of vehicles, including 5,400 minivan and SUV buyers.

The studies show that buyers of both types of cars are fairly affluent married couples in their 40s, with children but that's where the similarities end. The minivans, it turns out, are favored more by women (which is why they are sometimes called "mom-mobiles"), and by people concerned with issues like safety, with being able to park and maneuver around in traffic, and with being able to get elderly people in and out of the vehicles.

The minivan owners are more likely than buyers of any other kind of vehicle to be attending religious services, to engage in volunteer work and to be involved with their communities and families.

SUV owners, on the other hand, tend more often to be males, although it's interesting they outnumber women only slightly, at least in the United States. These SUV owners are described as generally having more reservations about marriage and parenting, more concerned with their SUV's external appearance and image, rather than practicality.

The SUV owners are less likely to be doing community work, with a greater inclination toward dining in fine restaurants, going to nightclubs and sporting events, and working out.

### Invincible

Whether driving or being driven in an SUV, the feeling you get is one of invincibility. With this sense of invincibility, it's not surprising SUV drivers become so reckless.

The market studies do show SUV owners also tend to want to be in control of people. That might help us understand how the vehicles and people feed into each other. As I explained in my earlier column, auto manufacturers concocted the SUVs when the United States enacted stricter laws on fuel economy. The SUVs are really nothing more than "prettified" trucks. As trucks, these vehicles would have been subjected to stricter standards on fuel efficiency; as "SUVs," a kind of hybrid large family car, they could get around the new laws.

The manufacturers knew the market for these pretty trucks wasn't to be found in a family man. It was still your testosterone-driven male, eager for speed and size. Knowing their potential buyers are control junkies, SUV manufacturers install their seats higher than in minivans, giving the drivers a sense of being above everyone else.

One market researcher glibly put it this way when interviewed by The New York Times: "If you have a sport utility, you can have the smoked windows, put the children in the back and pretend you're still single."

### Pinoy SUV drivers

I haven't seen any studies yet on Filipino car owners but based on what I've seen on our roads, I'd say the problem starts with the way cars tend to transform the gentlest Pinoy into a power freak. Cars carry much more prestige here than in developed countries so even a 5th-hand jeep carries its own prestige, vesting its drivers with a sense of power and, well, invincibility.

Now if that happens with a jeep, think of the transformation that comes with an SUV, with a vanity license plate like "111" or "777". You're now only a whisper away from the gods in heaven—and I mean that too in the way they're courting fatal accidents. Watch how they speed around with their high beams on, horns blaring away, weaving in and out of lanes and creating their own counterflow.

And yet for all the aggressiveness of SUV drivers, the American studies found SUV owners tending to rate lower in self-esteem, even as they try to compensate with a self-image that they're "great drivers" who can handle speed and risks.

Think of what that means for a Filipino driver. Think of the rich businessperson or politician, already drunk with power and privilege, purchasing an SUV as a status symbol. Think, too, of the *tsuper* (chauffeur), his ego battered to a pulp by a nag of an employer, getting into an SUV. You're not just talking about compensation here for low self-esteem, but a chance to get back at the world. Only the bus drivers (another bunch of insecure males) can compete with SUV drivers; which is still another story to add to urban jungle lore.

Finally, think, too, of your teenage son, grappling with issues of identity, of social acceptance, of pending adulthood. Even if you've tried to raise him with the best of values, once on the road with an SUV, and seeing how all the other SUVs bully other vehicles on the road, he's going to have to keep up with all the other dinosaurs, maybe even upping the ante, I'd think twice about having my child drive an SUV—or dating someone with an SUV.

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# Do your part to help country

I AM a full-time housewife with a reasonably full and comfortable life. We should be able to sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of our labor. But I am now about to do something that may turn my life around and disturb my placid existence.

Last week, the President admitted that we are in a crisis. I believe her. Women who have managed families or companies do not admit to a crisis unless other options have been tried. It is even immaterial why we have come to this nadir in our national life. Debates and finger-pointing have been our national sport and if there were an Olympic competition for this, we'd be the leader of the pack.

The question is what do we do now?

The usual answer is to ask: What will the government do? My sense is that this is beyond government. In the past, we held government responsible for every bad thing that happened. It is time that we individually and collectively take responsibility for the state we are in. But I did not do anything, some of you may indignantly reply. And that is probably the problem. We do not do anything unless we are touched by a problem in a deep and personal way. We are, after all, the silent majority.

A fiscal crisis will affect our children's future. Governments may come and go but countries remain. We have to help our country.

When Thailand went into a crisis in 1997, its citizens gave baht, jewelry and gold bars to put their country back on a more stable footing. And Thailand has recovered. Why should we Filipinos not do the same thing for the Philippines?

Those who feel as I do may write me at kilusangsagippilipinas@yahoo.com or call me at (0915)4077784. I am willing to be a one-woman secretariat for Kilusang Sagip Pilipinas (Samasama Aasenso, Gawing #1 ang Pilipinas). For myself I can offer eight hours of teaching English to disadvantaged children. My husband who is an engineer and a former executive of a big utilities firm may, I think, be convinced to teach science or act as a citizen member of some of government's more controversial bids and awards committees. Some of my doctor friends are willing to treat indigent patients one day a week. My lawyer friends are willing to do pro bono legal assistance. My children are willing to do community work, even street cleaning if necessary. The fact is, if taxi drivers pick up passengers without being picky, if pedestrians crossed at the proper places, if we didn't throw garbage into our rivers, if the rich among us paid the proper taxes, if all of us just followed the laws, we would already be ahead.

I ask all like-minded Filipinos to tell the rest of the country what it is they can commit to do so that the pledges of individuals, institutions and communities can fill up our national hope chest and bring us out of this crisis and into a brighter tomorrow.

**—MARIA LORNA C. MANUSON,**
**Meralco Village, Taytay, Rizal**

# Double whammy for motorists

LAST March 25 I reported a Shell station on Timog Avenue, Quezon City to the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Energy and, of course, Pilipinas Shell for possible fraud.

Pilipinas Shell purportedly acted on it by carrying out an inspection audit in the presence of a Quezon City Hall inspector. As expected, they gave the gasoline station a "clean bill of health." Obviously, the Shell station anticipated an inspection would be carried out and there was no longer the element of surprise.

And now the recent news that the Quezon City mayor's office inspectors found more gasoline stations defrauding their customers! I think it is a shame that gasoline merchants have to cheat motorists.

May I request the media to continue doing follow-ups on this matter to put pressure on local governments to go after unscrupulous gasoline dealers. This may just be "the tip of the iceberg."

The League of Mayors ought to get together and initiate surprise checks on all gasoline stations in their respective localities and raise the penalties for this crime. Considering the volume of fuel sold every day by each and every gasoline dealer, the currently applicable penalty/fine of P400 is a pittance. The cheaters can easily recover the amount after shortselling to three or four customers.

We, the consumers, are being hit by a double whammy here! We have to grudgingly accept the rising prices of petrochemical products, but to be shortchanged by the dealers is totally unacceptable.

It will be best if the suppliers initiate a process to self-regulate and discipline their dealership ranks.

**—FREDERICK CABILLO PO,**
**Unit 204, C. Ramirez Building,**
**121 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City**

# Unkind quip not Romulo's

I HAVE followed with keen interest the commentaries that came out in the INQUIRER on former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto R. Romulo and I am constrained to write in the interest of fairness and truth as far as my official interaction with Romulo is concerned. As the Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson during the Flor Contemplacion crisis, I had the opportunity to deal directly with Romulo in the course of the DFA's efforts to stop Contemplacion's execution.

It baffles me now how that unkind quip, "Why all the fuss over a maid" in Conrado Banal III's column last Sept. 2, could be attributed to Romulo. It was he himself who mobilized the whole DFA in exploring all formal and informal channels to save Contemplacion.

Through the entire crisis, I never heard Romulo utter that statement, or any word or sentiment to that effect. There was not one instance when he gave me and the DFA the impression that he was belittling Contemplacion's status as a maid or, for that matter, that of any Filipino by reason of his or her social or economic status. I say this only in fairness to the man who took full responsibility and brunt for the outcome of the crisis.

**—SUSAN O. CASTRENCE,**
**assistant secretary,**
**Office of Asean Affairs,**
**Department of Foreign Affairs,**
**2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City**

# Is the garbage dump legal?

COMMENTING on the safety of the Navotas Controlled Disposal Facility, former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun wrote (PDI, 8/26/04) that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been monitoring the water quality of the Obando River and that only biodegradable waste will from hereon be brought to the dump.

But is the facility legal? Is the process ecologically sound?

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003) prohibits garbage dumping and landfilling in flood-prone areas. Navotas and Obando are flood-prone areas.

The dump is supposedly a "controlled facility," meaning it used to be an open dump which is being upgraded in preparation for closure by January 2006.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco allows the dump in his town on the basis of a "Notice to Proceed" issued by former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Gozun's predecessor. But National Solid Waste Management Commission executive director Albert Magalang, in answer to a query from a member of Eco-Waste Coalition, wrote: "We would like to emphasize once again (per our letter dated May 11, 2004) that the Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued to the Navotas CDF should not be construed as a permit to operate. An NTP is just a letter that would contain a set of technical guides as prescribed by RA 9003 for any proponent or operator of a particular solid waste management facility."

Reynaldo P. Alcances, chief of the Environmental Impact Assessment Division-Environmental Management Bureau, DENR wrote: "Based on our records, no application has been filed with this office concerning the (Tanza dump) project. If (it) is a controlled facility, please be informed that we don't issue ECCs (environment clearance certificates) for these dump facilities since they are not considered environmentally acceptable modes of waste disposal."

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Department of Agriculture, after obtaining and analyzing water samples taken from the vicinity of the dump, noted that the "disposal facility is a contributory factor in the pollution of the river, and continuous dumping of more wastes in the area could aggravate the deteriorating condition of the water environment. Moreover, due to its bad implications to aquatic life as well as its harmful effects on public health, closure of the facility is hereby recommended."

It is hard to depend on Gozun's promise on behalf of the contractor, Phileco, that only biodegradable waste will be brought to Tanza. At present, some 170 trucks of mixed waste are collected from Manila alone.

We urge Mayors Tiangco and Lito Atienza to put up ecology centers in the barangays, barangay clusters and Pier 18; strictly enforce waste segregation at source (households, establishments) and segregated waste collection; and promote composting and recycling.

**—JOEY C. PAPA,**
**president,**
**Bangon Kalikasan Movement,**
**bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net**

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Question of the Week

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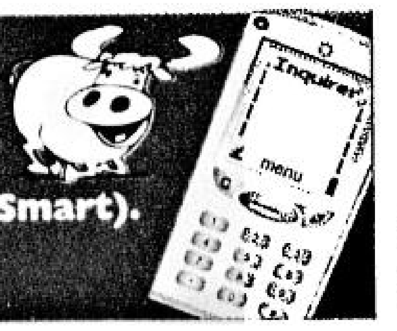
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# Maguindanao cops nab 5 linked to SSS death claims scam

COTABATO CITY—Police on Tuesday arrested at least five persons believed to be behind a syndicate involved in spurious death claims with the Social Security System (SSS).

PO2 Edwin Masukat, case investigator of Parang police in Maguindanao, identified the suspects as Tahir Oto; Verlyn Managay, 26; Rosalinda Gedian, 41; Rosalinda Maglasang, 49; and Levy Gandalla, 26, all of Barangay Tambo, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

The suspects allegedly forged documents and filed benefit claims with the SSS, including that of security guard Glenn Calaud.

Calaud found the scam when he went to the SSS office in Davao City to get a new identification card. At that time, he was told he was already dead based on SSS records and that his wife had already collected the death benefits.

The four women, Masukat said, pointed to Oto as the mastermind. Oto used them to process the death claims for Calaud's beneficiary, it was learned.

Managay's photo appeared in the NBI clearance bearing the name of Jimna Calaud, the security guard's wife.

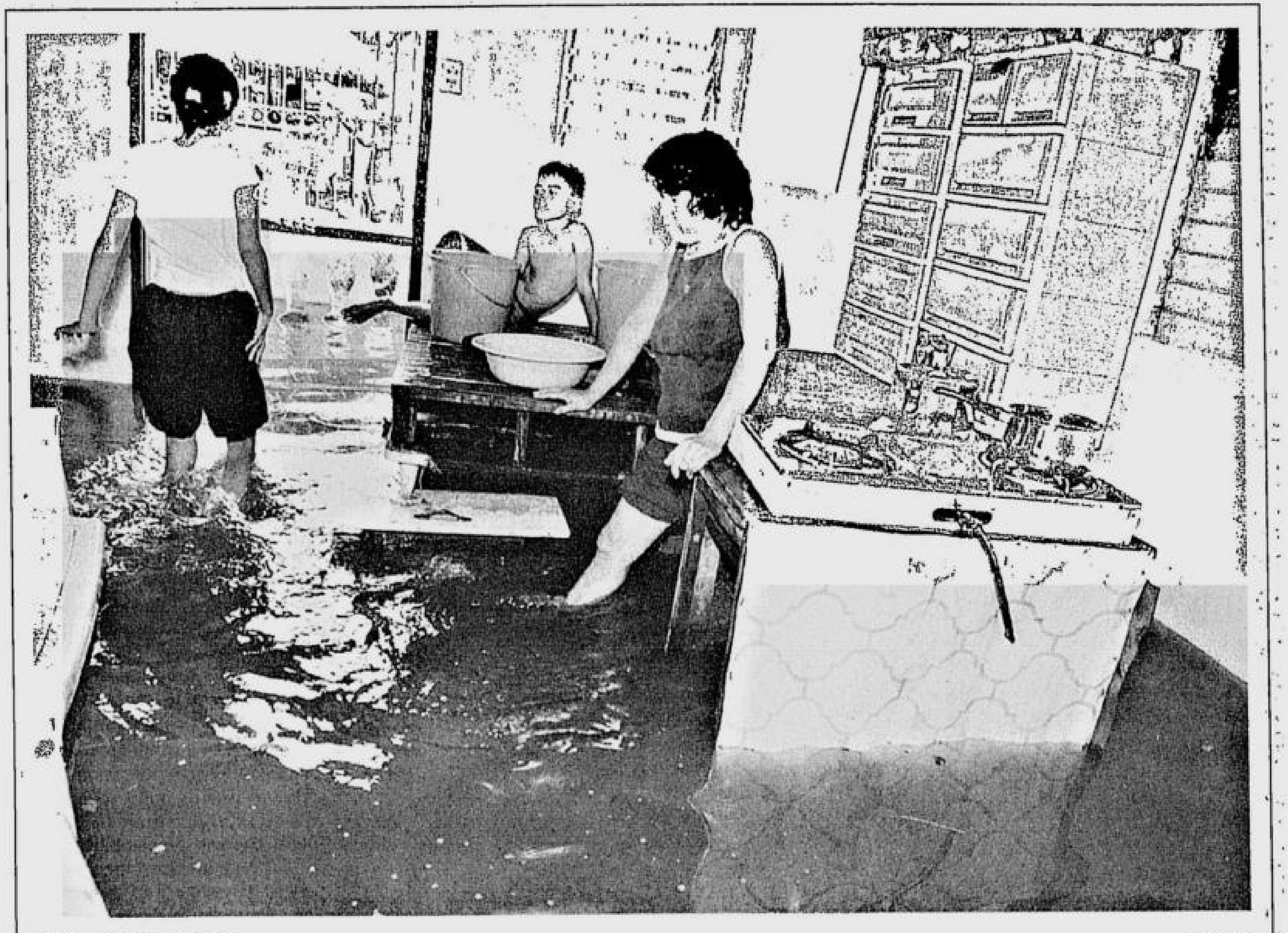
Managay said Oto paid her P300 for agreeing that her photograph be used in the NBI clearance bearing Jimna's name.

Gidian, Maglasang and Gandalla said Oto paid them for their participation in other claims filed with the SSS.

Valeriano Wenceslao, branch manager of SSS-Cotabato, said he had ordered an independent investigation of the extent of involvement of the five suspects in the scam.

Wenceslao said the pension fund would not immediately reinstate Calaud in its roster of active members. Calaud should first file a petition with a court, he said.

He should submit proof that he is alive and that he is the real Glenn Calaud, according to the SSS official. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



**INTERIOR FLOOD**
Floodwaters continue to bring miseries to the lives of residents of Sta. Ana town in Pampanga.

RUDY ESFERAS

# Workers uncover GSIS loan scam

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Eleven employees of a water district here who are applying for salary loans from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) have discovered that they already had housing loans of as much as P1 million although they do not have keys to those units, much less lots.

"I didn't know I got a housing loan," said Randy Pineda, a maintenance worker for the last 15 years at the City of San Fernando Water District.

Pineda said the GSIS central office in Pasay City last week confirmed his "loan," including those that 10 of his co-workers supposedly got.

In Pineda's case, the principal of his loan supposedly made in 1998 totaled P299,000. The interest reached P466,926. Including surcharges, his total obligation to the GSIS as of July 31 has reached P823,591.34.

Because of that loan, which he said he never secured and never benefited from, the GSIS is compelling him to pay P5,700 monthly, he said. His salary, he said, was only P9,000 a month.

"I don't have a house but I have this huge debt," Pineda said.

The houses are supposedly located in Royal Meadows, formerly Viva Valle, in Barangay Tangle in Mexico town.

Roberto Sembrano, a water district inspector who is set to retire in three years, said he might lose his retirement benefits to what he called a "fraudulent loan."

Sembrano said that when he checked his GSIS folder, the papers submitted for the housing loan bore fake signatures. The documents include his community tax certificate, policy papers and the contract.

Gerry Gomez, a pump operator, said a syndicate could be behind these supposed loans. The syndicate, he said, might have a contact person in the water district. "Else, how did the syndicate manage to get copies of our marriage certificates and service records?"

Edgardo Reyes, also a maintenance worker for the last 22 years, said the supposed loans were obtained despite the lack of "character investigations."

"If that was done, the GSIS would have known we were not capable of paying the loans," he said.

In 1998, their monthly salaries reached only between P3,000 and P5,000.

They said they had appealed to the GSIS to cancel the loans, but the agency insisted that they honor them. They wete also told that they could not avail themselves of salary loans because of their pending obligations.

The Inquirer called the GSIS office in Pampanga twice to confirm the central office's directive on the alleged dubious loans. In both calls, the operator connected the Inquirer to the unit handling housing accounts but nobody took the calls. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# *Marine turtle cries, agriculturist finds out*

**By Jhunnex Napallacan**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—What many had been saying was true: marine turtles do cry.

Evangeline Puao, the municipal agriculturist of the northern Cebu town of Consolacion, swore that she saw tears coming out of the eyes of a stranded sea turtle, locally known as "*pawikan*," while it was being prepared for release into the sea on Monday afternoon.

Puao said the creature was crying when it saw the knife of Wilfredo Magale, the fisherman who accidentally caught it last Thursday.

Puao said the knife was just used to clean the carapace of the turtle before it was freed.

Residents cheered as the stranded turtle, weighing at least 100 kilos, was freed in Sitio Bagacay, Barangay Tayud, Consolacion, some 20 km north of here.

More than 100 people, including the municipal officials and representatives of the Cebu Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), witnessed the activity.

Magale and his two sons were fishing off Tayud when the turtle got caught in their net.

The Tayud Fishermen's Association, of which Magale is a member, decided to report the capture of the *pawikan* to the municipal government and to the Cenro.

The *pawikan* was loosely tied at the fish landing area in Sitio Bagacay while waiting for its release.

Puao said they made a hole at the edge of the turtle's shell where a tag was placed. The tag bore the names of the three fishermen who caught the turtle and the date of its capture.

Because it was low tide on Monday afternoon, the marine turtle was first carried by Magale and three other fishermen to a deep portion of the sea before it was set free.

# DENR paves way for Subic-Clark road construction in Bataan protected site

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources-Protected Area Management Board (DENR-PAMB) recently approved a resolution that would allow the construction of a portion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) in the Roosevelt Protected Landscape (RPL) in Dinalupihan, Bataan.

According to the resolution, PAMB will allow BCDA to build the highway in a site that has been designated as a protected area.

However, the BCDA will reforest the area and plant trees, help in the protected site's repair and replace all trees that would be cut.

Ricardo Alarcon, PAMB presiding officer and community environment and natural resources officer, said in a statement that "the unanimously approved decision was the result of months of study and collaborative efforts with the BCDA that has resulted in a win-win situation."

The SCTEx is a flagship project of the Arroyo administration and is a vital component in President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point agenda, which will transform Subic and Clark into an international logistics and service center.

Rolando J. Tongco, program manager of the SCTEx project, said the PAMB decision was made after in-depth studies made by PAMB and BCDA took into account every conceivable environmental concern ranging from soil erosion, drainage, excavation, traffic and other issues.

The resolution said BCDA would build a perimeter fence and a pedestrian overpass to facilitate crossing to and from either side of the road.

"BCDA will also be giving priority to hiring people from the affected barangays within the Roosevelt Park," Tongco said.

# Groups to launch book on Samar poverty

THE CENTER for Anti-Imperialist Studies (Cais), the Leyte-Samar Forum and Friends of Samar and Leyte in cooperation with the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences Student Council and the Manila Collegian are launching the book, "The Untold People's History: Samar, Philippines" at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 at the lobby of the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences on Padre Faura Street, Manila.

Written by Ricco Alejandro M. Santos and Bonifacio O. Lagos, the book is published by Sidelakes Press, an independent publishing house based in Los Angeles, California.

An activist-scholar, Santos authored "Crime of Empire: A Case Against Globalization and Third World Poverty as a World System," a book on radical political economy published in 2003, also by Sidelakes Press.

Lagos is a veteran community organizer and researcher in Metro Manila and Samar.

# Recruiter faces charges for transporting 11 youths

**By Jani Arnaiz**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

MAASIN CITY—A woman recruiter is facing criminal charges after she was caught transporting 11 youths, three of them minors, in San Francisco town on Panaon Island in Southern Leyte for jobs in Manila.

Marites Oransa Malinao, of Barangay Bading, Butuan City, is now detained at the San Francisco jail to stand trial for alleged violation of Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act before the Regional Trial Court in Sogod town.

It was the first case filed in Southern Leyte since RA 9208 was enacted into law last year.

Mercy Facha, assistant provincial social welfare officer, said the minor victims—two girls aged 14 and 16 years old and a boy aged 15—were brought to the Provincial Social Work and Development (PSWD) child and youth crisis center at Capitol.

The other victims, aged 18 to 20, were escorted back to Barangay Manila de Bugabos in Butuan and Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, where they came from.

Malinao recruited the 11 to work as maids and factory or junkyard workers in Manila for a monthly salary of P2,000.

Police investigation showed that the group traveled from Butuan to Surigao City where they were supposed to take a boat to Liloan town on Panaon.

From Liloan, the group was to take a bus with another group of recruits bound for Manila. But Malinao could not afford the boat fare for her recruits, so they took a motorized boat to San Ricardo town and boarded three rented motorcycles to Liloan, a distance of 38 km.

The police in San Ricardo, however, got suspicious of their presence and tipped off their counterparts in San Francisco where the group was expected to pass by.

A team of four policemen intercepted the motorcycles in Barangay Central, San Francisco. The victims told police that they were recruited to work in Manila.

Supt. Alfredo Sabornido, Southern Leyte police director, said they arrested Malinao after she failed to present documents to prove that her recruitment activities were legal.

Liloan Mayor Marlo Maamo had confirmed that the Lilo-an Ferry terminal became the transshipment point of traffickers of women and children from Mindanao and Southern Leyte.

In a bid to stop the activity, the municipal council passed an ordinance preventing vehicles from transporting passengers without franchise to operate in Liloan.

# 100 teachers sue school execs over non-remittance

MORE than 100 teachers of a national high school in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, have filed administrative and criminal cases against six top officials of their school for allegedly failing to remit P22 million worth of their monthly contributions to various government financial surety offices.

Rosalie Uson, president of the Pagkakaisang Samahan ng mga Guro Tungo sa Pag-unlad Reporma Unyon (Pasa-Guro), said her fellow teachers at the Mina De Oro National High School were aghast after finding out that their superiors had not been paying their contributions to the Government Service Insurance System, PhilHealth and Pag-Ibig for nine years now.

The teachers rallied at the town plaza from 5 p.m. Friday until noon Saturday. They assembled at Barangay Bagong Sikat where the school is located and paraded to the San Jose town plaza.

She said they had already filed cases of estafa and malversation of funds last week at the Ombudsman and the Civil Service Commission against schools superintendent Bernabe Macaraig, his wife and high school principal Virginia, and four other school officials.

## Deaths

"Three of our co-employees [have] died without receiving any of the compensation benefits due them and their bereaved families. All of us have never availed of any of the benefits offered by GSIS, PhilHealth and Pag-Ibig because of these fund non-remittance," Uson said in a letter.

She identified the teachers as Pax Garcia, who died in 2002, Louie Gabriel in 2003 and Rogelio Obligar, 2003.

Uson said they feared that the Macaraig couple, who supposedly hold several US visas, would escape from the country and run away from their obligations.

She said Macaraig took over the operations of the school in 2002. At almost the same time, they discovered that the couple had not been remitting their contributions to government financial institutions after their applications for loans were denied.

Uson said they have also yet to receive their monthly salaries since July.

"We have repeatedly postponed the filing of the cases because we wanted to settle this issue (amicably). But they refused our offer to have a dialogue with them. We just want our money back," Uson said in a phone interview. *Marlon Ramos and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# PCSO TODAY

## Winner's loss, the poor man's gain

### P624M unclaimed PCSO winnings go to Charity Fund

**By Ferdinand G. Mendoza**

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR OLD LOTTO or sweepstakes tickets lately? Don't be quick to throw them away if they are still legible and less than a year old. You might be one of hundreds of Pinoys who do not know that they are already instant millionaires.

Officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said that unclaimed prizes from Sweepstakes and lotto games have reached over half a billion pesos from 1996 to 2002 alone, or P624,285,174 to be exact.

These unclaimed prizes from both lotto and sweepstakes games have now been declared "forfeit" and are set to be reverted back to the PCSO's Charity Fund.

"*Wala kaming magagawa dahil iyan po ang dikta ng batas.* [We can't do anything except to forfeit the prize since this is what is stipulated in the law]," explained a PCSO official.

Section 6, Paragraph A of the PCSO's charter (R.A. 1169) requires that "Prizes not claimed by the public within one (1) year from the date of draw shall be considered forfeited, and shall form part of the charity fund."

The Charity Fund is the fund source for all PCSO charity services for the poor. It is this fund that the agency uses to realize its endowment fund/quality health care program, individual medical assistance program (IMAP), community outreach program, ambulance donation program, national calamity and disaster program, and hospital renovation and improvement of health care facilities.

"So, it's as if the unknowing instant millionaire unwittingly donated his millions to the poor," another PCSO official quipped.

He emphasized that the ticket holder is responsible for checking if he or she won in the lottery.

"It is not the responsibility of the PCSO to go looking for the winning ticket if prizes remain unclaimed," he stressed, adding that "for those interested in finding out if their tickets won, they may view the list of winning lotto combinations at the PCSO central office in E. Rodriguez, Quezon City."

PCSO's mandate comes from Republic Act 1169, which states that fifty-five percent (55%) of PCSO's net receipts is set aside as a prize fund for the payment of prizes, fifteen percent (15%) goes to operations of the PCSO, and thirty percent (30%) of the net receipts is allocated as contribution to the agency's Charity Fund. Put simply, for every P10 earned by PCSO, P3 goes to charity.

**THE BOTTOMLINE** While politicians make much ado about government-led community medical missions, this mother from a rural poor area in Pangasinan quips: "My daughter is sick. I cannot afford to bring her to a hospital. Do you think I care about the reason why these doctors are really here?"

PHOTO TAKEN FROM A PCSO COMMUNITY MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION HELD IN MAY IN ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN BY MARK ROZON

## PCSO spends P26 thousand in med assistance per indigent

**By Dmitri Arce**

"*BAWAL MAGKASAKIT* [Thou shall not get sick]." This popular advertisement, so often seen on television, tells us how costly it can be to make sick people well.

Ricarte dela Cruz, 43, owner of a small store in Novaliches, Quezon City, found this out in the most unfortunate of circumstances.

Stricken with a kidney disease, the ailing De la Cruz now spends his days praying that his son, Erickson, could find some form of assistance to cover the cost of his dialysis treatment.

"The cost of the treatment is very high, and we can barely afford his maintenance drugs," said Erickson.

It is no wonder why government institutions like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) becomes a source of comfort for those who can't afford to buy medicine, much less avail of medical assistance.

This year, the PCSO spent an average of P26,700 for every indigent Filipino who came under its care and availed of its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP).

"That is roughly P2.7 million a day or a total of P484 million for the first six months of 2004 alone," said Rubin Z. Magno, assistant manager of the PCSO Fund Allocation Department (FAD).

The FAD office is directly in charge of the IMAP. It handles an average of 200 to 300 people a day, despite the fact that the department only has 20 direct service social workers.

Explained Magno: "We are still quite understaffed because each person who comes to our office for assistance has to be interviewed and evaluated by a registered social worker. You see, we need to find out if the person requesting assistance is really *indigent*."

PCSO officials define an indigent as a Filipino family or individual whose income falls below the poverty threshold or one who earns not more than P4,961 a month.

Magno further stated that indigent patients who qualify for IMAP usually suffer from diseases that require costly medical attention. These include renal diseases, heart problems, cancer, respiratory infections, hypertension, diabetes and orthopedic needs, to name only a few.

The amount of assistance given to indigent patients can range from P50,000 for normal cases and up to P100,000 for "dreaded diseases" such as cancer.

## What PCSO'S IMAP does for the poor

THE INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE Program or IMAP is a core program of the PCSO. It is quick-reaction response designed to give immediate financial assistance to indigents in need of urgent medical help.

There are three ways whereby the program assists indigent Filipinos.

***First:*** The IMAP can help settle an indigent's hospitalization bills by issuing "guarantee letters" to hospitals where the patient had been confined.

"Guarantee letters" or GLs are written certifications that state that the PCSO will be responsible for settling the cost of hospitalization. These include medicines; medical, surgical or blood supplies; and diagnostic procedures. Professional fees and room expenses, however, are not covered by the IMAP.

***Second***: The IMAP can facilitate the actual release of funds equivalent to the cost of medical attention. These funds, which come in the form of checks, can be released directly to the patient or closest relative, or to the hospital where a GL is not acceptable. PCSO officials stressed, however, that their preferred policy is to release the funds to the hospital where the patient received medical treatment.

***Third:*** PCSO can also facilitate the issuance of a certification that will qualify a patient to be a beneficiary of the endowment fund given by PCSO to select hospitals and health institutions. Hospitals that were granted PCSO endowment funds also have a system on how to select indigent patients who can qualify for this assistance.

Indigent patients or their relatives can submit their requests for medical assistance PCSO provincial district offices (PDOs), or to the Fund Allocation Department (FAD) at the PCSO Main Office in E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

Approval of these requests will be dependent on the patient's ability to fulfill the following requirements: letter-request by patient or closest relative addressed to either the PCSO Chairman or General Manager; Medical Abstract signed by attending physician; endorsement from the hospital/medical social service office, Certificate of Acceptance of guarantee letter from the hospital director; and statement of account, or current bill from the hospital billing section.

For the first half of 2004, the IMAP received about 23,304 requests for medical assistance from qualified indigents. A total of 13,076 or 56.11 percent were recommended for approval through feedback reports, while 4,575 or 19.63 percent were recommended for issuance of guarantee letters.

Also, 104 requests were referred for inclusion in the Endowment Fund of hospitals and other institutions. Another 291 requests were endorsed to PCSO Provincial District Offices for appropriate action. The remaining 5,258 cases are still on process.

A comparison of medical assistance requests of PCSO indigent beneficiaries showed an 85 percent increase in 2004, compared to the number of requests made in 2003. The total funds used to meet medical assistance requests also jumped 87 percent between 2003 and 2004.

The total approved IMAP requests for the whole of 2003 was P573 million. By 2004, this total has already hit P484 million in only the first six months of 2004.

PCSO General Manager Rosario C. Uriarte noted that the increasing amount of funds delivered to the poor via IMAP underscores how many underprivileged Filipinos are in need of medical assistance.

"The figures mirror the rising cost of medical attention in our country and the number of our fellowmen who need it," Uriarte said.

She likewise mentioned that PCSO is now fine-tuning its system of processing medical assistance requests in order to further increase the number of indigents the agency can service.

"Our target is to reduce to a minimum the number of hours it takes to process a charity request," Uriarte said. ***Dmitri Arce***

## EZ2 is easy money as lotto posts 11.9% revenue increase

BIGGER JACKPOT PRIZES and an increase in patron base in Visayas-Mindanao have contributed to a surge in lotto revenues for the first half of 2004.

The revenue performance of the online lottery games of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) posted an 11.91 percent increase for the first seven months of 2004 compared to the earnings during the same period last year.

As of July 31, revenues from lotto games hit P6.3 billion, compared to P5.6 billion recorded for January to July in 2003, a difference of about P700 million.

PCSO has seven online lottery games. These include Super Lotto 6/49, Mega Lotto 6/45, Lotto 6/42, 6 Digit, 4 Digit, 3 Digit and, the newest game, the EZ2.

For the month of July alone, the increase from last year's figures stood at 19.65 percent with revenues soaring to P957 million, the highest so far this year. The increase in July 2004 revenues can be attributed to the launch of the EZ2 lotto game, which generated P76.6 million in earnings for PCSO in just 27 days of operation.

The revenue performance in January also recorded a strong showing at P933 million even if it is lower than earnings for the same month last year. This is because January 2003 holds the record of the highest sale in lotto for any month in any year at over P1 billion. Officials said this can be attributed to the huge jackpot amount in January 2003, where both the Super Lotto and the Mega Lotto registered jackpot prizes of P135 million and P103 million, respectively.

Lotto revenue figures tend to show a direct relationship between the "attractiveness" of the jackpot prize in a lotto game and the amount of revenues generated per game, PCSO officials added.

The prize money in a succeeding lotto draw automatically increases when there is no jackpot prize winner in a preceding lotto draw. As a result, the patron base expands and more bettors mean more revenues.

The month of May posted the largest increase when compared to the same month last year. May revenues posted a 23.14 percent increase with P925.77 million in earnings this year.

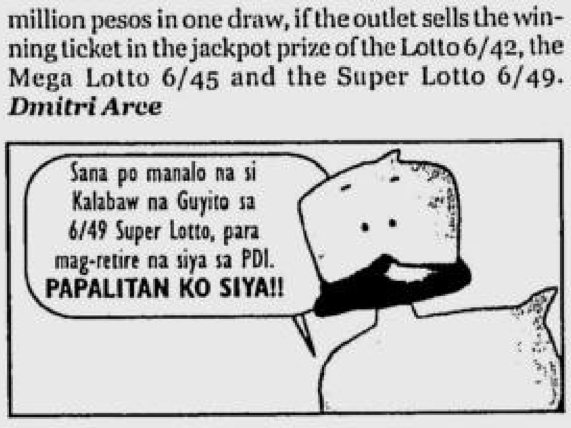
Vis-Min revenues doubled its sales figures in March of this year compared to the same month in 2003, and heavily contributed to the 17.36 percent increase in revenues for all the games that month.

This year, Mega Lotto 6/45 became PCSO's biggest earner, generating P2.24 billion in revenues for PCSO. Super Lotto 6/49 comes second with P1.59 billion in revenues, while the Lotto 6/42 comes next with P1.47 billion.

The total jackpot prizes given to winners of PCSO's lotto games amounted to P1.4 billion for the first seven months of this year, while lower prize payouts amounted to P1.39 billion.

PCSO officials said the good revenue performance of the lotto games augur well for the incomes of owners of lotto outlets who get 5-percent commission on gross ticket sales.

An outlet owner can also earn as much as half a million pesos in one draw, if the outlet sells the winning ticket in the jackpot prize of the Lotto 6/42, the Mega Lotto 6/45 and the Super Lotto 6/49. ***Dmitri Arce***


Sana po manalo na si Kalabaw na Guyito sa 6/49 Super Lotto, para mag-retire na siya sa PDI. PAPALITAN KO SIYA!!

## 70 going on 17

**HALF-EMPTY HALF-FULL**

*Rosario C. Uriarte*

THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE is 70 years old today. Had it been a living person, we'd probably be witnessing toasts across the table offered by similarly-aged, sentimental folks who have shared the passing of the years with dear Mr. PCSO.

And like all gracious individuals, Mr. PCSO would probably smile, nod, and savor that singular moment of recognition from family, friends, and peers.

But then again, would he?

Can Mr. PCSO, in all sincerity, take in the congratulatory handshakes, the adoring gazes, and the mile-long compliments of a life well lived in public service, with nary a tinge of despair or grief in the thought that he could have done more for the poor in this country?

Of course, the old are allowed to be maudlin, especially on their birthdays. And as the mind gives way to the tug of memory, I guess his most vivid recollection will be the cries of children hugging the frail shoulders of mothers too poor to buy medicine, much less bring their sick sons or daughters to a hospital. These were his reasons for being; why Mr. PCSO was born.

Seventy years later, the cries, the sick children, and the desperate mothers are still there. Worse, Mr. PCSO's capacity to reach out and assuage their troubles have been impaired by the deft maneuvers of political creatures that ascribe motive to his duties.

Politics getting in the way of his work makes Mr. PCSO so angry. But he knows it is an anger that has no place in a country where poverty threatens to outlive even him.

And so, in the midst of celebration, Mr. PCSO makes up his mind. He will go to work. This time, in a more furious pace, like the devil was after him. His sole sources of income are lotto and sweepstakes, so that will have to take priority in the days to come. It is in greater revenue that he will find his greatest strength to help the poor.

After all, he is Mr. PCSO, the principal government agency tasked to raise funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, as well as charities of national character.

He will push his people to work harder. Even if this means tangling with the minions and fair-haired boys of the power elite in this country. Oh, he knows who and where they are. He was not born yesterday.

Mr. PCSO remains optimistic that there are enough people in his organization who genuinely recognize that service to the poor is their true calling. And for those who chose to conveniently forget this calling, well, he has a few chosen words for them: "We are not here to line our pockets. Are you blind? Do you not see how much the poor need us? Our earnings are not for us! It is for the poor in our midst!"

And maybe, when all is done, the cries of the children will grow faint in his ears — not because he has turned deaf to their pleas, but because fewer children will have to cry for their needs. Oh, he has big plans. He can feel the blood rush to his wizened cheeks. He will not wait for the poor to come to him. Mr. PCSO will go to them. He will be...what is that politically correct term they use nowadays? Oh yes, he will be more "pro-active." He will come up with programs and projects that will raise revenues to a level that will allow him to give more medical and financial assistance to men, women and children that poverty has stalked and claimed all these years.

Only then will he feel that he truly deserves the accolade of his peers. Only then will those toasts and congratulatory handshakes rest easy on his soul.

Yes, he knows his country is going through a financial crisis. All the more reason to act with dispatch. And as for politics and politicians, well, the devil take them. Mr. PCSO has just turned 17. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR. PCSO!

### PCSO Official Draw Results

**August 30, 2004**

**Megalotto 6/45**

12 07 21 24 10 09

(in any order)

Jackpot prize: **P13,641,612.60**
1 winner

All following numbers should be in exact order

Lotto 4 Digit Game : 7 0 2 0
Suertres 3: 7 5 2
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 28 13

**August 31, 2004**

**Lotto 6/42**

20 31 37 07 24 09

(in any order)

Luzon Jackpot Prize: **P6,381,091.00**
1 winner
VisMin Jackpot Prize: **P3,000,000.00**
No winner

All following numbers should be in exact order

Lotto 6 Digit Game 1st Prize: 6 5 8 2 3 3
1st Prize: **P701,619.48**
No Winner.
Suertres 3: 7 8 2
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 03 19

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

## 70th Founding Anniversary

## The People's View

Ma'am,

Lubos po kaming nagpapasalamat sa inyo at sa buong staff ng PCSO sa pagtugon ninyo sa aming kahilingan na mabigyan ng financial assistance ang aming 2 years old daughter na si Rachel S. Idemne. Salamat po sa hearing aid na binigay ninyo. Sa ngayon nagre-response na siya sa mga sounds na kanyang marinig. She will undergo speech therapy as soon as possible.

Maraming-maraming salamat at dalangin ko na marami pa kayong matulungan and God will protect you and bless you in all the things you do. Again thank you very much and God Bless You All.

Advance Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to All.

Respectfully Yours,
Elpha S. Idemne

---

Dear Manager Uriarte:

Greetings.

In behalf of the Federation of Baao Women, Inc., I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for donating Php300,000 worth of medicines that were equally disposed to the 30 barangays of Baao. Had it not been for your assistance, the "Medical and Dental Mission" would not be materialized.

With your support, the federation's objective, which is to help the people of Baao in any way possible, was fulfilled. The Medical and Dental Mission had greatly benefited the less-fortunate families especially those from the far-flung barangays of our municipality. It alleviated the suffering of those who cannot afford to buy medicines and those who cannot afford the services of a doctor. With this community-oriented undertaking, the indigent families feel that they are not neglected.

The federation will be forever indebted to you.

Thank you very much and more power.

Very truly yours,

GEMMA S. DAGUMAN
Municipal Federation President

---

Dear Madame:

Mabuhay!! Kami po ay sumulat sa inyo upang ipaabot ang aming taos pusong pasasalamat sa pagkakapagbigay ninyo sa aming kahilingan ng Hearing Aid para sa aking anak na si Kim Wency V. Arellano.

Malaking tulong po ito sa aming anak lalo na sa kanyang pag-aaral at sa ngayon ay nakakarinig na siya ng ayos.

Sa lahat ng bumubuo ng PCSO, muli ay maraming-maraming salamat.

Gumagalang,

Wherlina V. Arellano
Count

---

Hon. Rosario Uriarte
To: General Manager, PCSO

Agosto 31, 2004

Isang magandang araw po,

Ako po si Gng. Juana P. Dancel, 66 yrs. old dumulog sa inyo upang humingi ng hearing aid noong Hunyo, 2004 ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa malaking tulong na ipinagkaloob ninyo. Natanggap ko na po ang hearing aid ngayon araw na ito August 31, 2004 sa Ledesma Hearing Aid Center.

Makatutulong po ito nang malaki sakin gayundin sa aking pamilya. Ipinaaabot ko rin po ang aking pasasalamat kay Bb. Diara de Sagun ng DSWD at sa lahat ng bumubuo ng inyong tanggapan.

Nawa'y kasihan kayo lagi ng Poong Maykapal sa inyong walang sawang pagtulong sa mga taong nangangailangan tulad namin.

Muli po akong nagpapasalamat.
God Bless.

Lubos na gumagalang,
Gng. Juana P. Dancel

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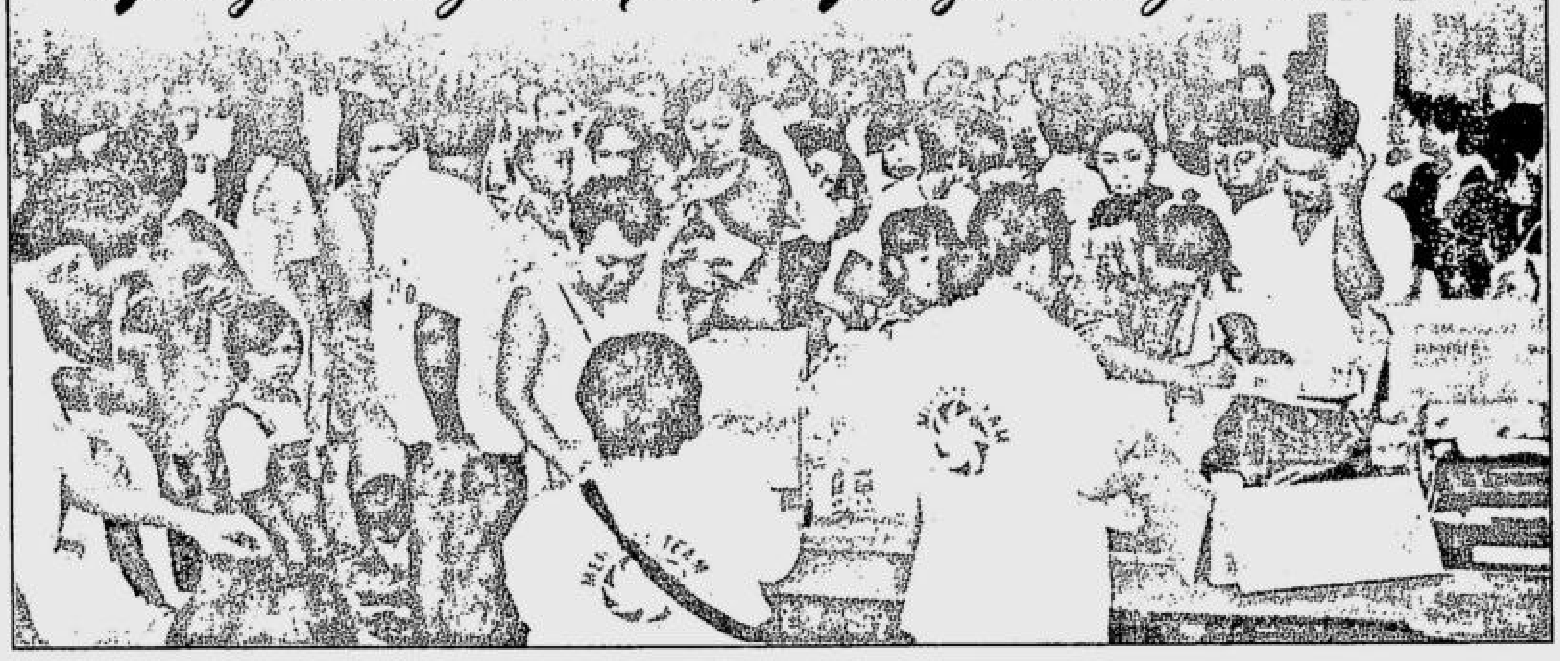
*Mapagkalinga...*

*Ganyan ang Pilipino, Ganyan ang PCSO.*



## Official Draw Results

**September 1, 2004**
**Megalotto 6/45**
15 23 07 03 34 42
(in any order)
Jackpot Prize: **P4,748,820.30**
3 winners
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game : 6 3 2 1
Suertres 3: 8 7 8
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 05 01

**September 2, 2004**
**Super Lotto 6/49**
17 34 13 28 02 15
(in any order)
Jackpot Prize: **P15,150,891.00**
No winner
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game 1st Prize: 5 5 0 0 1 0
1st Prize: **P998,599.98**
No Winner.
Suertres 3: 1 6 0
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 02 21

**September 3, 2004**
**Megalotto 6/45**
06 21 43 11 24 22
(in any order)
Jackpot Prize: **P4,726,749.30**
No winner
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game : 1 3 8 2
Suertres 3: 0 4 6
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 17 12

**September 4, 2004**
**Lotto 6/42**
19 42 09 24 23 34
(in any order)
Luzon Jackpot Prize: **P3,153,778**
1 winner
VisMin Jackpot Prize: **P3,484,165.02**
No winner
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game 1st Prize: 3 7 5 5 5 1
1st Prize: **P1,377,365.86**
No Winner.
Suertres 3: 9 5 4
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 20 22

**September 5, 2004**
**Super Lotto 6/49**
15 29 06 17 48 37
(in any order)
Jackpot Prize: **P20,564,758.20**
No winner
All following numbers should be in exact order
Suertres 3: 7 0 4
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 13 20

**September 6, 2004**
**Megalotto 6/45**
37 15 20 43 18 34
(in any order)
Jackpot Prize: **P9,468,456.90**
No winner
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game : 3 3 1 5
Suertres 3: 7 2 1
Lotto EZ 2 (Luzon): 09 01

# Wanna be a lotto agent?

By Dmitri Arce

As long as there are people, there will always be a market for dreams. This is perhaps the simplest explanation why there is always a long line of hopeful millionaires in front of a lotto outlet.

Every person that leaves a lotto counter has in his or her possession a piece of paper that may be the ticket to a better life. It is not just a combination of seemingly random digits to an unconcerned lotto teller. Most of the time, it is a number sequence that has meaning to the one who buys the lotto ticket. It may be a special or lucky number – a date of birth or wedding anniversary, or even the ages of one's children. But one thing is certain: every lotto ticket bought is regarded with faith in the belief that a million good things can happen to those who take chances.

And this is possible for as long as there are lotto outlets around when a person feels that he or she may become the next instant millionaire.

Aside from being an instrument of making peoples' million-peso dreams come true, the lotto outlet or agent also serves as a conduit for giving to charity. Every lotto outlet throughout the country is operated and maintained, through its agents, by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). What most people do not know is that for every peso earned by PCSO through its lotteries and other games, thirty centavos go to charity services. Hence, a person buying a lotto ticket directly gives to charity, and the lotto outlet is the de facto charity institution.

Oftentimes the size of a toilet cubicle, the lotto outlet is probably one of the most lucrative business ventures today. Why? First, the business is run with minimal spatial requirements. Second, it requires minimal personnel (one person per terminal/outlet and one back-up personnel is standard). And third, the capital requisites are really not that high (the squid balls franchise costs more).

Given the relatively comfortable business viability of operating a lotto outlet, it is no wonder why almost everywhere one goes in Metro Manila and in some parts of the country, the familiar signboard "Lotto Play Here" can be seen. Since the introduction by PCSO of the online lottery games in 1995, the number of outlets has steadily increased.

A lotto outlet is seen by most as a very lucrative venture. For this year alone, the PCSO paid over P300 million in agents' commissions, which is 5 percent of gross sales. Last year, the total amount paid in commissions to lotto agents reached over P480 million. And as lotto revenues increase each year, the amount given as commissions also increases.

Aside from the 5-percent commission on gross sales, a lotto agent can earn a maximum amount of P500,000 if his or her outlet sold the winning ticket in the jackpot prize of the Lotto 6/42, the Mega Lotto 6/45 and the Super Lotto 6/49. This incentive is called the "Lotto Agents Seller's Prize."

So how does one become a lotto agent or lotto outlet owner? The PCSO reviews and assesses a number of applications for lotto outlets on a daily basis. The following paragraphs contain an overview of the process and requirements when applying to become a lotto agent.

### The usual requirements

There are two kinds of applicants for what PCSO dubs as an "agent of the online lottery sector," and these are individuals and corporate/partnerships.

For individuals, an applicant must be a Filipino citizen and at least 21 years old. He or she must accomplish and submit some necessary documents that include, but not limited to, Letter of Intent; Online Lottery Application Form; Proof of Income; Proof of Ownership or Lease of Outlet; NBI clearance; Barangay clearance; photograph of the building where the proposed outlet would be situated; and the photograph of the interior of the proposed outlet.

The Letter of Intent and the application form is available at the PCSO. For the Proof of Income, an applicant must submit documents to prove sources of income such as income tax returns, business registrations, audited financial statements and certificate of income.

For corporations or partnerships, they must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission with primary or secondary purpose to operate a lotto outlet. Several documentary requirements would be needed from corporations/partnerships that are seeking to operate a lotto outlet, such as articles of incorporation; information on corporate officers and directors; audited financial statements; and photograph of the building where the proposed outlet would be situated and its interior, among others. The rest of the requirements can also be sourced from the Licensing Offices of the PCSO main office in E. Rodriguez, Quezon City.

### The location

One of the most important aspects when applying for a lotto outlet is the viability of the proposed site. There are several requirements that must be met in order for PCSO to approve a viable site for an outlet.

First, the proposed site must be at least 100 meters from an existing lotto outlet; schools or places of learning; and churches and places of worship, except if the location is enclosed or in a shopping center, subject to PCSO's governing rules.

Second, it ought to have "good human traffic," which means the site must be situated in a commercial or busy intersection area. This is so because PCSO would not want a lotto outlet that would be located in a remote village with a population of only 20 families. In order for an outlet to earn, it must be located where there are thousands of people raring to buy a lotto ticket.

The site must be flood-free and properly ventilated and should have ample space. It should be at least 8-9 square meters, or if a business counter, at least 2 square meters. PCSO requires that the site should have available shelves and counter for terminal installation, modem, and storage of lottery materials.

Also, the proposed site should have a telephone facility and an electricity outlet. This requirement is for the installation of the lotto terminal. PCSO also requires that the site be surveyed by the communications carrier.

The operators for the lotto outlet would be trained by PCSO in the operation of the terminals, preferably one dedicated personnel and one back-up per terminal.

PCSO will then conduct an inspection of the site, and will determine if the conditions mentioned above are satisfied.

### The cost

After a thorough review of submitted documents and an inspection of the proposed site is done, PCSO will determine if the application for a lotto outlet is viable. Then the applicant will be informed of the evaluation results and told whether the application is approved or denied.

If the proposed outlet site is considered viable by the PCSO, the applicant will be informed and be required to complete the next stages of the application.

The PCSO charges a processing fee of P1,700 for each approved lotto outlet application. After processing, an approved applicant is required to pay an installation fee, the amount of which depends on the communications carrier that will be chosen by the applicant.

In sum, an applicant is required to pay less than P20,000 after his or her application is approved.

Of course, the eventual lotto agent is required to shoulder all the expenses outside that of the application process. One of these expenses is the fabrication of the actual lotto booth, and another is the rental fee for the site. The lotto agent would also provide the manpower, which is usually one operator and one back-up.

Good luck to all those who want to be the keeper of the keys to being instant millionaires! For more information on the application for a lotto outlet, visit the PCSO office in E. Rodriguez, Quezon City.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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# Lahar saves Bacolor from floods

**By Tonette Orejas**
*Bacolor, Pampanga*

THIS time, residents of Bacolor, which suffered from Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991, found protection from lahar during last week's flooding. PDI PHOTO

THE SAME ash, sand, rocks and gases from Mt. Pinatubo that strong rains washed down from the slopes in the form of scalding mud in 1991 were the same stuff that saved Bacolor town in Pampanga and its people from severe flooding last week.

Lahar, as how geologists call those lethal volcanic materials, have really changed the fate of Bacolor. Doomed twice over—first by nature's wrath and then by being sacrificed as a lahar catchment—the town's misfortunes have increasingly been turning into a "blessing."

Last week, when rains induced by Typhoons "Marce" and "Chaba" flooded many parts of Central Luzon, Bacolor, 60 km north of Manila and 39 km southeast of the volcano that heaved one of the world's most violent blasts in the 20th century, jutted high, like a hill of refuge.

"Water rose to the knee but subsided fast (on Thursday)," said Dominga Lusung of what her village, San Vicente, experienced recently. Her place, as well as Barangays Cabambangan, Santa Ines, Cabetican, Tinajero, Talba and Mesalipit, are in the town proper and the ones that are inhabited now.

For Lusung, 60, it was the lahar that put the residents to safety.

"We're already on high ground. Believe me, 34 feet of lahar reached the village. That's why I don't expect big floods here anymore. There would only be occasional, slight floods from rainwaters, not from overflowing rivers," she said in Kapampangan.

## Changing fate

Familiar to the place where she has lived since birth, and having returned to Bacolor three years after the 1991 eruptions, Lusung said she knew the changing fate of the town.

In the 1970s and the next decades before the disaster, she recalled, floods lasted a week to a month. "It's really low-lying and surrounded by water," she said, pointing to the Pasig-Potrero River on the west and the Gugu Creek on the east.

But Bakulud, the town's old name, indicated it was originally a high plain near another precolonial river settlement, Lubao. Sand that abounded in the town before the 1991 eruptions indicated that nature in olden times had altered the landscape of Bacolor.

Honorato Romero, 42, remembered the worst floods that hit the town. And like Lusung, he said lahar was doing the saving for them now.

"We're safe because lahar raised our place," he said in Kapampangan.

Lamenting the exodus of communities, the diaspora to at least seven resettlement sites, the loss of houses, farms, fishponds and what American sociologist Kathleen Crittenden called the "large but debated number of people" buried alive by lahar, neither Lusung nor Romero would still not want to call lahar a blessing now.

## Burial

In their separate reckonings, June 15, 1991 was not a fortuitous day. As the volcano woke back to life that day, Typhoon "Diding" lashed. Aside from the rains of ash, sand and rocks laden with sulfur, lahar cascaded from the slopes into the Pasig-Potrero, spilling and swamping the town.

But the twin typhoons "Rosing" and "Mameng" on Oct. 1, 1995 sent gushing the biggest lahar avalanches. In minutes on that Sunday, Bacolor was entirely gone.

Only the tips of roofs served as reminders of the town that was the country's capital during the 1762-64 British Occupation, Pampanga capital for 160 years until 1904, and the Athens of the province for its great literary, cultural and social contributions.

The town that prided itself for being bestowed a Royal Coat of Arms, said to be Spain's reward for Bacolor's hospitality, was reduced to a wasteland. It was Spain's Pluribus Unum Non Plus Ultra (One Out of Many) no more.

Lahar claimed the remaining historical landmarks of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, who organized a La Liga Filipina chapter in the town, of Filipino revolutionaries who wrote great plays and poems yet held guns, of Gen. Antonio Luna's military formations, and of women who fed and treated wounded soldiers in convents.

The imposing San Guillermo Church in San Vicente, one of the oldest that the Augustinian friars established and from where the local secular movement blossomed, was half-buried, its choir loft window now becoming the door.

## FVR Megadike

The sprawling campus of the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trades, founded in 1861 and said to be the oldest vocational school in Asia, was left only with its landmark facade.

As if those losses were not enough for the 67,000 plus displaced residents, the government decided to build the FVR Megadike right in Bacolor. U-shaped and its crevice facing the Pasig-Potrero, the 56-km dike enclosed nine villages—Maliwalu, Dolores, Concepcion, San Antonio, Balas, Duat, Potrero, Parulog and Sta. Barbara.

Seven more villages were enclosed. Cabambangan, San Vicente, Santa Ines, Cabetican, Tinajero, Talba and Mesalipit were bounded by the dike in the west and by the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road that cut through Bacolor with an elevation of 20 meters, in the south, and by the San Fernando-Santo-Tomas-Minalin Dike in the east.

Barangay Cabalantian, where the worst tragedy occurred—2,000 houses, 500 vehicles and thousands of people buried—is right beside the San Fernando-Santo Tomas-Minalin Dike. To date, only the villages of Calibutbut, San Isidró, Macabacle and Magliman are outside the dike.

But while Bacolor was largely left empty, 1,755 residents refused to abandon it or returned to it by 1997, said Crittenden in her study, "Can This Town Survive?" (Natural Hazards Review, May 2001).

## Permanent residents

Mayor Romeo Dungca said about 2,000 families had settled permanently. About 4,000 families return during summer to plant. The rest live in resettlements but come during occasions, he added.

The jest is that Bacolor comes fully alive only during All Souls' Day, Holy Week, election day and the local Virgen de la Naval fiesta every third Sunday of November.

Crittenden noted more permanency now. Houses built on salvaged materials and raised on stilts, so tall that even a dump truck could pass underneath, have been replaced by concrete but nevertheless tall houses.

On Wednesday last week, when the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that 212 of 507 villages in 15 towns were still flooded, life in Bacolor ran its normal course.

At the Lourdes Shrine in Cabetican just near the dike, men mowed grass. Inside a reconstructed chapel, women recited the rosary in time for the start of the month-long praise for the Virgin Mary.

At the chapel belfry, three men installed a new steel crucifix. Far down and on a vegetable farm that Erlinda Pineda tended on the slopes of the dike, she harvested gourd and squash that she would sell the next day.

At the revived MacArthur Highway, jeeps plied the route connecting Sasmuan, Lubao, Guagua and Bacolor to the capital city of San Fernando.

Along the Bacolor stretch of the GSO Road, woodcarvers sold antique-looking religious statues and furniture. A kilometer away from the Gugu Bridge, 15 trucks hauled sand from the river.

Children, bound for home after school hours, walked merrily on top of the dike that also doubled up as road. Young men cast their rods on the river, hoping to catch fish for dinner.

Just outside the eastern side of the megadike, the cockpit arena was alive as the *tupada* raged. Right within, and at the outer edge of the megadike, vast lands are planted now to sugar cane and rice, and cultivated as fishponds or grazing grounds for goats and carabaos.

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# Future of RP films in Baguio amateur video fest

**By Vincent Cabreza**
*Baguio City*

A SCENE from the amateur video "Montiniosa."

EIGHT maverick filmmakers once sat with acclaimed artist Kidlat Tahimik in 2002 to discuss the future of *pito-pito* (low-budget movies shot in a week and edited for another week) films.

Some of the filmmakers were first-time directors, who had since achieved some measure of fame for producing uncommon stories wrapped in formulaic sex and violence that audiences used to expect from Regal Film's innovative deals.

*Pito-pito* contracts gave directors a week to shoot and a week to edit films for a P5-million production budget.

Kidlat said the directors came into the field expecting box-office windfall but ended up frustrated by the Philippine movie studio system.

"There is a big man, who controls what movie theaters will show every week. Studios, which intend to finance new productions, always go through Mr. Big. He tells them how the story should end, which popular actresses to star. He is even consulted about a film's title," Kidlat recalled learning from the discussion.

He said it was an exchange of extreme industry points of view because many of the directors appreciated the simple liberties that producer Lily Monteverde's *pito-pito* contracts granted them.

These contracts still demand box-office returns but allow the directors enough artistic license to make their stories thoughtful or, in many cases, surreal. These are the roots of Jeffrey Jeturian's award-winning films "Pila Balde" and "Tuhog."

## Studio system

Kidlat himself scorns the studio system, preferring to make personal comedies about the Philippines that provoke irreverent thoughts about modern Filipinos.

But he said the experimental *pito-pito* films made Philippine filmmaking audacious for a change.

That "audacity" is stirring up again among 60 student filmmakers of the University of the Philippines Baguio, who launched on Tuesday the "Arubayan ni Oble" (roughly translated, Oblation grounds), which they billed as the first Baguio Amateur Video Film Festival to commemorate Baguio's 95th charter anniversary.

The festival was produced by the UP Baguio's senior mass communication students for their Broadcast Communication 130 (Program Planning and Building) class under instructor Shirley Palileo-Evidente.

Kidlat said he was drawn to the festival when a crew of the students' Pitong Dwende Productions suddenly handed him a script for a part in their film "Banyo Thoughts."

The festival featured 10 25-minute films on Sept. 1-3. The awards night will be held on Sept. 22.

"When I taught film (in UP Diliman and UP Baguio), I used to give the kids three weeks of free time to film what they could so they could show me what I needed to expect from them. And like most films, they gave me formulas of sex and violence," Kidlat said, reacting to the festival previews.

"It's not their fault. It's the world they grew up in. They believe that films can only be presented with this formulas, so I usually advise them that they can find new ways of telling their stories," he said.

## Smart

Kidlat said the festival efforts were smart.

Luvee Hazel Calventas directed "Banyo Thoughts" as a humorous narrative of the politics and sociology that also controls people's toilet time.

Jenny Abella's crew produced a treatise on youthful aimlessness called "Lakad." It shows student-actor Ramon Ngayaan Jr. strolling around the 870-meter span of lower Session Road along downtown Baguio, where he meets a whole spectrum of individuals. Session is the major commercial center. Visitors often find it odd that the city's youth spend their nights just strolling up and down the stretch.

Jamaica de la Cruz, a part-time radio disc jockey, stars in "Montiniosa," a Mt. Province myth about a vengeful spirit who abducts children. "Montiniosa" was filmed by Bryan Baldo in Sagada, Mt. Province.

"Fedrang Falad," which was produced for under P2,000, has a plot straight out of the 1970s' "Oh, God" series. But instead of George Burns, we get director Jose Paolo dela Cruz, playing "god" to Fedra (Joanne Lacsina), who asks that she be stricken off the list of people who have pre-determined fates.

The festival has a couple of films dealing with sexual abuse and homosexuality.

Aurea Rose Mendoza's "Kalso" deals with an abused woman's ultimate vengeance on men, while April Pauline Arevalo's and Samuel Austria Jr.'s "Talingkas (The condition for freedom)" dwells on a coming-of-age story for a closet homosexual student.

Angst brims from "Aniniwan (Shadows)," which was helmed by Karl Anthony Camila, and the call center saga, "Litang (Dazed)," directed by Chevrolet Cruz.

Elizabeth Aglugub is proud that her film, "Payong (Umbrella)," is the only unabashed love story of the entries, but Jose Nietes III said kudos should also go to his film, "Taghoy sa Dilim," the only horror-comedy that tackles the Baguio legend about the "White Lady of Loakan."

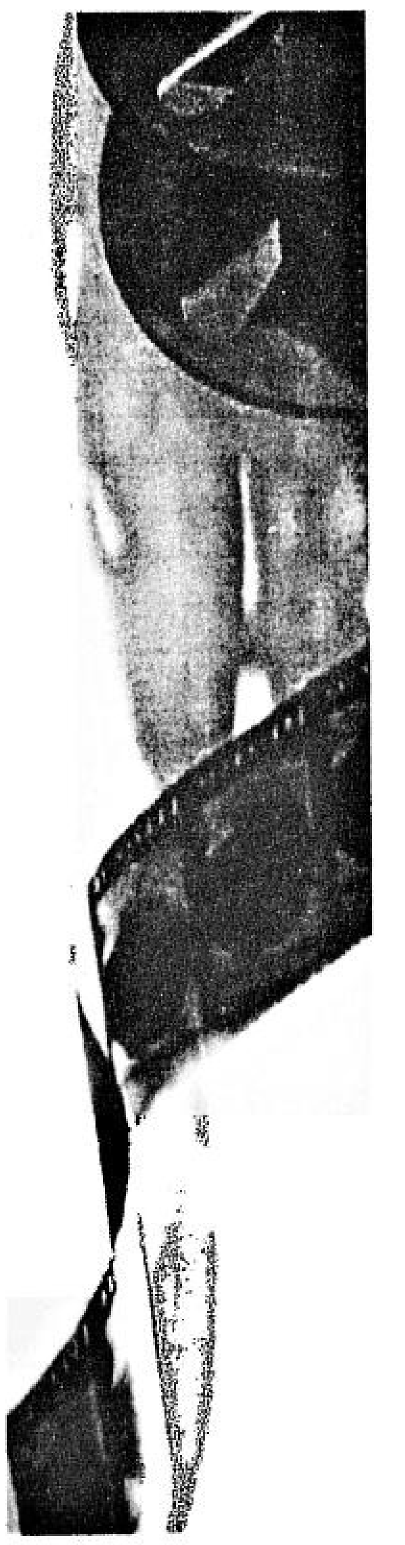
Kidlat gave the festival top points for original thought produced under a *pito-pito* environment.

Each film crew had to raise their own money to make their films, a fact that impressed the world-renowned filmmaker.

The films were produced on a budget of between P2,000 and P14,000. The student filmmakers said their expenses were covered by sponsorships.

Kidlat said he produced the highly acclaimed "Mababangong Bangungot (Perfumed Nightmares)" in stages because of the shoestring budget and because he needed to find locals willing to showcase their acting prowess.

That film earned him the International Critics Jury Prize for Narrative Film, the Catholic Jury Prize and the Ecumenical Jury Prize in the 1977 Berlin Film Festival.



# FIRST ASIA INSTITUTE
## OF TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITIES

A Touch of
Blue
and
Green

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# 4th FOUNDATION DAY

September 8, 2004

*Ad Astra First Asia!*

## Tanauan Mayor Kicks Off Event

Tanauan City Mayor Alfredo Corona will do the honors of flagging off the First Asia Institute's motorcade at the break of dawn on Foundation Day, September 8, 2004. The motorcade signals the start of 4 days of activities.

Tanauan City's Office of the Mayor has consistently been supportive of First Asia Institute and the local government has been a partner in the school's community development programs.

## 'Unang Hirit' at First Asia

First Asia Institute's Foundation day celebration gets national coverage when TV network GMA Channel 7's early morning program "Unang Hirit" covers the morning activities with live reportage. Unang Hirit celebrity host Regine Tolentino and Drew Arellano will be feeding live reports from the FAI campus.

The local cable network's community station, Home Cable Channel 3 will also be covering the events.

"Unang Hirit" airs every weekday from 5:20 to 8:30 am on GMA7.

## Mexican Ambassador at Foundation Rites

### *Three Ambassadors grace 4-day event*

First Asia Institute will be honored with the presence of 3 Ambassadors during Foundation week.

The Ambassador of the United Mexican States keynotes First Asia Institute's 4th Foundation Day ceremonies today. Philippine Ambassador Jose Zaide will give a seminar later in the week, and resident Ambassador Rey Carandang is the institute's Humanities Director.

Ambassador Enrique Hubbard Urrea graces the school's Mexican-themed celebration, as part of the school's annual Foundation day tradition, where a particular country is featured and adopted as a theme for its various activities.

Japan, Spain and the ASEAN region were featured in previous Foundation day celebrations.

"Activities like this prepare our students and teachers to be globally competitive and attain a world view. Mexico, as this year's special country feature, shares many things in common with the Philippines," explained Humanities Director, Ambassador Rey Carandang

A full schedule of activities include a talk by Economist Dr. Bernardo Villegas on "Economic Opportunities in CALABARZON," as part of the "Connecting with the Business Community" Program.

A special exhibition by the National Champions Grade school and High School Robotics team will showcase its winning projects in both national and international competitions. For teachers, a special session will address "Meeting the Challenges of a Teacher Counselor."

A much-needed seminar will provide a refresher on the social graces with "Protocol and Etiquette."

"School Governance" will be the topic of a round table conference participated in by CALABARZON school officials

"There are many complementary activities slated for the week, all designed to provide both students and faculty members with learning experiences in interpersonal relationships, sportsmanship and society and culture," added Carandang.

First Asia Institute celebrates its 4th Foundation day proud of its world-class, fully-wired campus, its dedicated academic organization, an innovative curriculum and training program.

Ambassador Urrea (center, with lei) is received by FAI President S.G. Belen (3rd from left), faculty members and students during his visit last month.

## eLearning Technology is First Asian's Advantage

First Asia Institute's High School students have an unfair advantage over their peers from other schools: they have Genyo.

The country's first localized interactive multimedia and server-driven application was developed to conform and enrich the basic education curriculum.

Students are able to understand their lessons better with the aid of animations, simulations and problem-solving exercises.

Cherry Cesario, FAI Unified School's Director observes: "computer technology allows students to have fun while they learn. Genyo lets them have both."

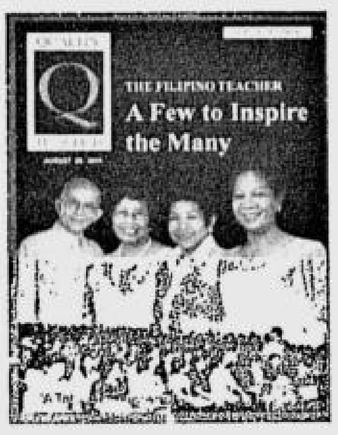
## World's Fastest Spearheads First Asia Reading Program

First Asia Institute Dean of Humanities and the world's fastest reader (scientifically measured by Northwestern University's Dr. Florence Schale at 80,000 words per minute, under laboratory conditions in 1969), Dr. Tess Calderon believes reading may be the solution to many of the country's problems.

"We do not have a reading culture in the Philippines," observes Calderon. "Reading is the cornerstone of a literate society and a person's lifelong learning." Calderon speaks with authority on the subject; she is the world's fastest reader.

Calderon has initiated a school-wide reading program, designed to make curriculum, the classroom and the campus an environment conducive to reading.

Calderon has influenced both the teachers and students daily campus life. "We initiated a program called D.E.A.R., for 'Drop Everything And Read.' At certain times during the day, computer screens in all classrooms flash the 'DEAR' line, a signal for everyone to stop what they're doing, dig up their preferred reading material, and be allowed a period of uninterrupted reading time. First Asia Institute's unified school (grade school and high school) has adopted DEAR and is getting encouraging feedback from its students."



Quality Teacher magazine features Dr. Tess Calderon and 3 other honorees in its Special Edition

To complement its efforts at inculcating the habit of reading among its students, new words are flashed on screen when students switch on their computers, helpful aids to increasing their vocabulary. "We are simply taking advantage of the technology available in the campus," says Calderon. "By putting together a mix of teaching aids, visual cues and interactive technology, we have been able to provide a conducive environment where reading is encouraged."

Calderon was among 4 exemplary educators honored during "A Tribute to Teachers," a gathering of over 5,000 teachers from all over the country convened by the Bato Balani Foundation, in part, for her crusade to promote a reading culture among students and the public.

"I believe that developing the habit of reading among our populace can significantly improve our overall literacy level. A literate and informed society will make correct decisions on important issues affecting our national interests," adds Calderon.

## FAI SCHOLAR COMMUNITY

Ninety-one freshmen full scholars qualified for the CALABARZON Scholarship Program and joined the First Asia Institute family this schoolyear. Five of them are Jose Rizal Scholars, twelve are Apolinario Mabini Scholars and nineteen are EmilioAguinaldo Scholars.

These scholars enjoy a package of privileges including free tuition and stipends.

First Asia Institute offered the Manual Quezon scholarship grant for the first time this year. Fifty-five freshmen received this grant, entitling them to full tuition fee assistance.

## BLUE OR GREEN?

First Asia Institute's Unified School's (Pre-, Grade- and High schools) two-party Parent Teams have each adopted one of the school colors. The Blue Team and the Green Team will participate in friendly competition to try to outdo each other in supporting various school activities.

"The school will only be successful if parents are genuinely involved. We will measure parent participation through their support of student activities," said FAI President S.G..Belen.

## FAI, PNU Ink Partnership

FIRST ASIA INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITIES
PNU - FAI
Education Graduate Program

First Asia Institute and the Philippine Normal University recently formalized a partnership in its graduate program in education.

"For its rollout year, First Asia Institute is offering Masters in Educational Management. It will be a boon to students and educators in the area who may have been planning to pursue graduate studies," said Lourdes Lozano, chairperson of First Asia Institute's College of Education.

The agreement was signed by S.G. Belen, President of First Asia Institute (2nd from left), and Dr. Nilo Rosas, President of the Philippine Normal University (3rd fr. left).

## The CALABARZON Development Forum

First Asia Institute has spearheaded the collaboration between the local government, business and the academe in the North Batangas area. The North Batangas Summit was a gathering of representatives from these sectors for a conference on strategic development, business and training and education.

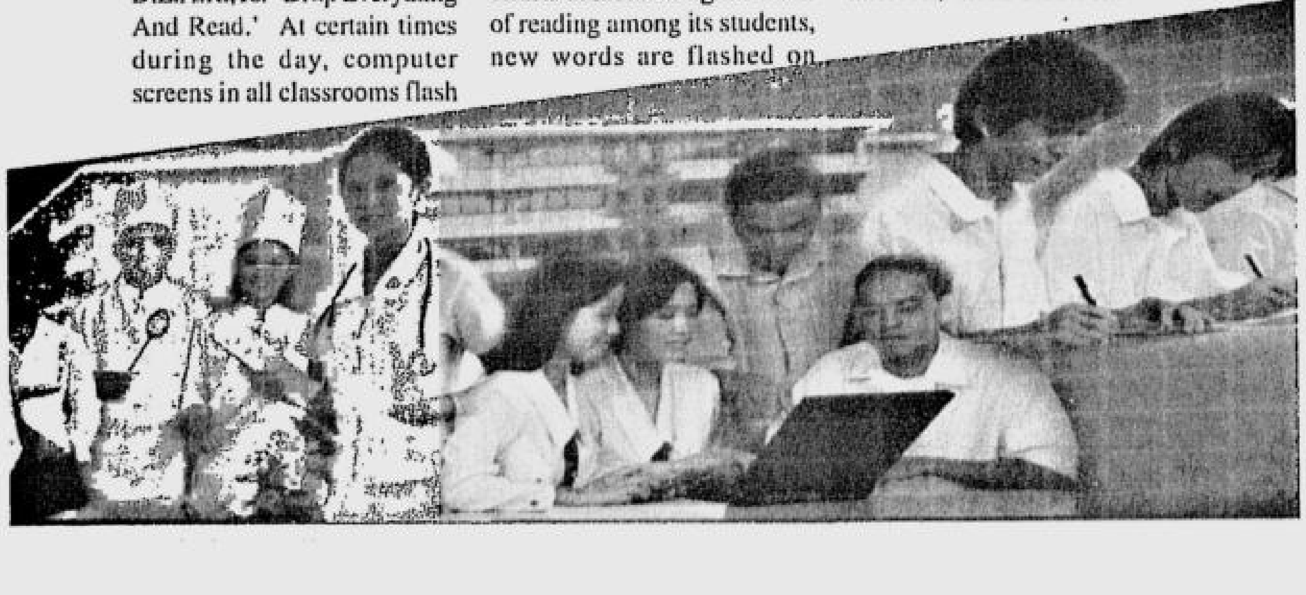
This year, the summit is expanded to include multiple events designed to address the diverse needs of the regional community. Under the CALABARZON Development Forum, the following programs will provide opportunities for multisectoral dialogue.

The CALABARZON Summit (formerly North Batangas Summit) is envisioned to bring together various stakeholders in the region. The biennial forum focuses on the emerging metropolitan area inclusive of the cities of Lipa and Tanauan, and the adjoining towns of Sto. Tomas, Malvar, Talisay, Laurel, Balete and Mataas na Kahoy.

The CALABARZON Educator's Roundtable gathers educators from the region to discuss and plan pooling of resources, mapping out common initiatives and addressiong local concerns.

The "Connecting with the Business Community" Program brings to the region experts and influentials who may be able to provide insights and share their thoughts on the region's development programs. It aims to gather top business leaders from the region to make them better aware of the challenges and opportunities surrounding business in the region.

Other seminars and workshops will be organized to address specific needs of the community. A seminar on protocol and etiquette is slated this week for the First Asia community and the Tanauan City local government. This is intended to bring back civility and propriety to public service.



**First Asia Notes** First Asia Institute's Grade School and High School robotics team have consistently been champions in the Philippine Robotics Olympiad held these last two years.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# GMA vows to take on 'vested interests'

From page A1

Critics have warned that in order to develop the economy, the country must tackle widespread tax evasion, the control of industries by a few powerful families and the dominance of political dynasties, which pass on power from one generation to the next.

"If these vested interests believe they can destabilize or sabotage our efforts, they better think twice. Our people are behind me. I have their mandate, and I am here to serve that mandate for our nation's best interest," Ms Arroyo said in her opening remarks.

The President said it was not easy to take on entrenched interests that could strangle government bureaucracy or selfishly propel private gain.

## More forceful President

"There are many generations of neglect and abuse to be weeded out. Armed with patience and dogged persistence, I am peeling back the layers one by one, ever mindful of those who want to undermine my sincere efforts to bring our nation back into fighting form," she said.

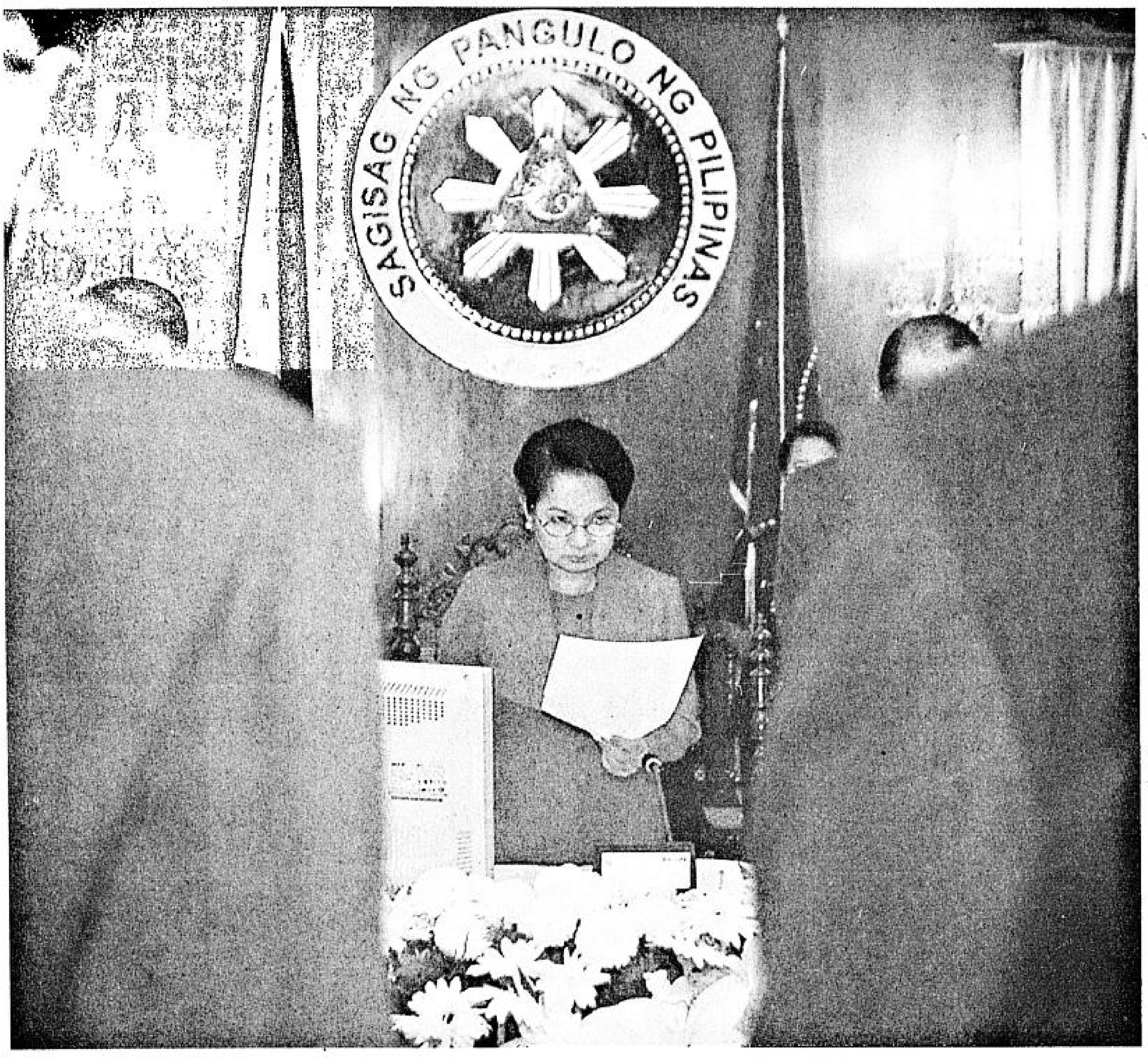
When forum host Tony Lopez asked if the people would see a "more forceful President in the next six years," Ms Arroyo replied: "I think being a nonpolitical President I can, I can do that and in fact I don't even have to be popular."

Ms Arroyo said that to achieve sound fiscal management, she was "paring back our government to live within its means, by eliminating what is old and inefficient and reallocating funds into areas of vital investments that will build a strong foundation for the future."

By the time she steps down in 2010, Ms Arroyo said she expected to achieve a budget that spends less for debt service and more for public service and infrastructure.

## Values formation, more teeth

"I ask our citizens to unite in common purpose and change the culture of corruption that besets government and commercial enterprises alike. We must all work together as patriots and nationalists in our schools, places of worship and the workplace to build a culture of honesty and integrity by rewarding hard work over easy gain," she said.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo presides over the National Security Council meeting in Malacañang on Tuesday. VAL HANDUMON

The President said that to address endemic corruption, she was adding values formation to the lifestyle checks on public officials and personnel.

Using Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption as a model for her anticorruption campaign, Ms Arroyo said she had increased the budget of the Office of the Ombudsman to allow it to hire more investigators who could stand up to well-paid private lawyers.

Ms Arroyo said she would give more teeth to the enforcement of revenue collection and regulatory institutions "to create a truly modern, transparent and world-class revenue and financial system."

The President's tough talk came as she was seeking cuts in government spending and the passage of eight tax measures to help the cash-strapped government deal with the budget deficit.

In her speech, Ms Arroyo painted a bright picture of where the country was going.

She said that for the first time, the people were united in a "common purpose to work together as patriots to contribute to the new Philippines.

"The road will not be easy but the bumps will lessen over time and the slope will be less steep," she said.

"This is a stark difference from the time I assumed the presidency three years ago: the country was on the edge, politically, economically and socially. My job at that time was to stabilize the nation and provide a calm platform from which to grow," she said.

Ms Arroyo noted that the economy grew by 6.35 percent in the first half of 2004, the highest in 16 years.

## Create new middle class

"The Philippines is ready for a 21st century economy, based on modern financial and transport systems, an open and transparent business environment and a government that will live within its means," she said.

"We are a nation of remarkable resilience, endowed with deep natural resources, a young and motivated workforce, a dynamic democracy and a growing economy," Ms Arroyo said.

She said that more than ever, the people now "understand the importance of the economy to their lives and the need for fundamental reform if we are to live up to our full potential as a nation, to offer hope to hard-working Filipino workers."

## Lasting solution

"I am therefore confident and optimistic, but I cannot do it alone. I need every single person, company and leader to continue to do their part with greater commitment to unlock the concealed wonders of this nation, create a new middle class and eliminate poverty," she said.

"Indeed, it is a challenge and I don't underestimate the obstacles to change. We must pass vital legislation in Congress to raise much-needed fiscal revenues and to remove the obstacles to increased investments and growth," the President said.

Ms Arroyo said the people who had offered contributions were making "clear acts of faith in our capacity to overcome crisis."

"We urge Congress to match the spontaneous and spirited response of people by putting utmost priority on much needed revenue measures to bring forth lasting solution to the crisis," she said.

To meet the challenges, Ms Arroyo said she put up a sweeping reform package to "strengthen what is weak and further invest in what is strong," she said.

Ms Arroyo said she would continue to work to link the Philippines to the world of commerce and trade, and offer the best practices of the world to the country.

"I am so proud of this nation, it's people and our many friends around the world who continue to invest in our nation and believe in the promise of the Philippines. With your help and determination, we at long last will bring forth a new modern nation that will lift its people while reaching out to the world. Our time has come," she said. *With a report from AFP*

### IN THE KNOW

WHAT do vested interests mean?

In law, vested interests is defined as "a fixed right to present or future enjoyment and that can be conveyed to another."

In politics, they refer to private sector groups that gain benefits from government through political connections.

For example, government contracts involving highways do not go to the most qualified bidders but to those who have connections to government, said Dr. Francisco Magno, executive director of La Salle Institute of Governance, a research and training unit under the office of the president of the De La Salle University System.

Other benefits given to vested interests may include licensing of infrastructure and transportation projects such as railroads and even forest management projects, Francisco said.

Fighting vested interests means "leveling the playing field as far as the government's regulatory function is concerned," he said. *PDI Research*

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# Malacañang seeks supplemental budget for Napocor

From page A1

and net lending.

"Therefore, their solution is to hit the consumers with P75 billion (in higher power rates) and to hit the taxpayers with P80 billion (in new taxes)," said Recto. "This will not end if we keep on doing this, so we need to look into the GOCC problem."

He said senators were against new taxes because the public would be hit by a triple whammy.

First, he said, the increase mandated by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) would give Napocor P37 billion. Second, the ERC might possibly grant another P37 billion in power increase by the end of the year.

Because these rate increases would be insufficient to balance its finances, Napocor would transfer another P37 billion in liabilities to the national government in 2005.

"Next year, he said, Napocor wants the government to again assume P500 billion in liabilities, which will further increase the public deficit. In effect, it wants P37 billion in interest expense shouldered by the taxpayers for next year alone," Recto said.

## Interest payment

Recto explained that the financial problem could be blamed on the allotment of 32 percent of the budget for interest payments, which "crowds out investment in infrastructure and social services."

He said that aside from the very low tax collection to cover the interest expense, the decision of the national government to assume debts of GOCCs, particularly Napocor, and government financial institutions (GFIs) aggravated the financial problem.

He also blamed President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to cut by 40 centavos per kilowatt hour Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment in 2002, which furthered ballooned the utility firm's debt stock.

Senators Roxas, Joker Arroyo, Sergio Osmeña III, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Panfilo Lacson, Juan Flavier and Senate President Franklin Drilon agreed that the GOCCs and GFIs had brought the fiscal problem upon the government.

Osmeña wanted all GOCCs and GFIs to submit to the committee a list of salaries, allowances and perks of their officials.

Arroyo, for his part, went to the extent of branding Napocor and some GOCCs as "useless utilities," and the only logical "plan of action is to close those that are not making money and are incurring losses."

He also wanted to conduct an inquiry into how Napocor was able to retire its senior officials to the tune of P12 billion even with its financial problems.

"It was confirmed that Napocor, which was really the culprit in this whole business here, paid its top and lowest officials over P12 billion. They could not explain where they got the money," Arroyo said. "That's the kind of government we have."

He said he was going to investigate the retirement program because Napocor senior vice president Roland Quilala claimed at the hearing that the program was done in accordance with the law.

"They better prepare because I will look into this very carefully," said Arroyo, who pointed out that even before Napocor could sell its generating cost, "they already got the money ... then later rehire themselves."

## Window-dressing

Recto said that the government had been window-dressing the public debt by showing that it was being incurred by the national government and, therefore, should be borne by the taxpayers.

"But the truth of the matter is that most of the debt of the public sector is due to the GOCCs," said Recto, who said it was high time Congress put a stop to the practice of bailing out GOCCs and GFIs.

"Since 1998, we've assumed P740 billion in actual liabilities of GOCCs, and another P260 billion in depreciation of these liabilities because of the foreign exchange," he said.

To avert a fiscal crisis, Recto suggested to the economic managers to drastically bring down the consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) amounting to P5.4 trillion (at the end of 2003).

CPSD refers to the total public sector debt, incurred by both the national government and the GOCCs.

"Let's decrease it to levels acceptable to the international community," he said.

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# Solon hits Pagcor-Stanley Ho tieup

From page A1

inaugurated" the Sheraton Marina Casino Hotel in Malate, Manila, on Feb. 11 under a Pagcor franchise.

He said he could not understand why Pagcor was granting franchises to establishments that would compete with its own operations when it was clear that only Congress had the authority to grant gambling franchises.

Figueroa called on Congress to review Pagcor's charter, particularly its granting of franchises to other parties.

"Gambling is bad enough," he said. "We should have at least the decency not to allow foreigners to control even our vices."

In Dagupan City, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz issued a statement expressing support for the proposal to put Pagcor's profits into the national treasury to help the country out of the economic rut.

Cruz, who is waging an antigambling crusade in the country, said the government did not have to look far for a solution to the fiscal crisis.

"Place the billions generated by Pagcor in the national treasury [and use it] for line budgeting," he said, adding that the proposal aired several times by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. "is an idea that begs to be heard."

## Fort Ilocandia, etc.

Figueroa said Cheng was behind the renovation of the Fort Ilocandia hotel in Ilocos Norte and its conversion to a first-class casino for high rollers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China.

He said Cheng was "busy renovating" the Ho jumbo ship docked at the back of the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex for a new opening as a hotel, casino and restaurant in October.

"Obviously, Jack Lin (Cheng) has developed some strong connections with persons who claim to have influence with the incumbent administration," Figueroa said.

He named Cheng's supposed "constant companion" as Tonya Tong, a "stunning and reportedly beautiful Chinese lady," and said the couple were working with a Filipino partner whom he identified as Andrew Tan.

Figueroa pointed out that Pagcor was among the government's top revenue-generating agencies.

"Why should its business and potential revenues be shared with private firms, particularly with foreigners?" he said.

## Sanitizing Pagcor

Cruz, a former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said putting Pagcor's profits in the national treasury would be "the least that can be done to somehow sanitize" the gaming firm.

Quoting newspaper reports, he said Pagcor had generated more than P5 billion from its operations during the first quarter of the year.

"By placing the revenues in the national treasury for line budgeting, there would at least be [a] semblance of legitimately laundering them," he said.

Cruz said Pagcor money, used legitimately by the government, would help the country out of the fiscal crisis.

"[The crisis] is real," he said. "No economic expert is needed to make this conclusion. It is enough to look at how much money is in the pocket of the common [man], how much food there is on his table, and how he makes both ends meet."

At the same time, Cruz said, it would be good to know how much money Pagcor was earning from its operations.

## Gambling galore

"How much does it get?" the archbishop said. "How much goes to whom, to what and why? The right answers to these questions might prove very revealing, very interesting."

Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano (NP, Taguig-Pateros) assailed Pagcor for its supposed plan to introduce gambling through texting.

He said such a plan would tend to entice anyone with a cell phone to gamble anywhere and anytime.

"This means people can gamble even when they are in school and in church. Even youth under 18 will have access to gambling," he said in a statement.

Cayetano also noted that aside from text gambling, Pagcor was said to be laying the ground for gambling through the Internet.

If this pushes through, it will bring gambling "to every barangay in the country," he warned. *With a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Pact assures safeguards vs gas cheats

By Tina G. Santos

THE QUEZON City government and representatives from oil companies and their dealers have put in place measures to protect the public from gas stations short selling petroleum products.

In a memorandum of agreement, oil dealers agreed to conduct regular pump testing and calibrating procedures in accordance with retail rules of the Department of Energy.

Both parties also agreed on the tolerable limit of 50 ml for every 10 liters.

In the event of discrepancies beyond the tolerable limit, dealers would immediately close the pump until recalibration and resealing has been done by the city treasurer's office.

For its part, the city government would conduct quarterly inspections to ensure that pumps in gasoline stations are properly calibrated.

"Under the Quezon City Revenue Code, it should be done annually. But we will do it on a quarterly basis to safeguard the interests of oil consumers," Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said.

He added that with the system in place, the public is assured that they would be buying the right quantity of gasoline from refilling stations in the city.

The city has about 119 registered gasoline dealers.

Joining Belmonte were Dr. Charie Antonio, president of the Association of Pilipinas Shell Inc.; Ditas Garcia, president of the Federation of Petroleum Dealers; Ruth Marbibi, of the Petron Dealers Association; Fernando Martinez, of Eastern Petroleum and chair of the Philippine Independent Petroleum Corporation; and Glen Yu, of SeaOil.

Belmonte also certified as urgent the recommendation to impose stiffer fines on gasoline stations found short selling oil products.

As proposed, fines would be raised from P400 to P1,000 for the first offense, and from P800 to P2,000 for the second offense.

To date, the city government has collected a total of P323,311 in fines from refilling stations found short selling their customers.

# Manila raises land tax

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BAD NEWS for land owners, but good news for City Hall.

In the midst of a fiscal crisis, the Manila City Council yesterday approved a tax measure that would double the real property tax paid by the city's land owners to boost revenue collections.

At the council's regular session yesterday morning, party affiliations prevailed through a vote of 29-7, with members of the majority bloc approving the new tax rates.

The approved tax measure, proposed in July by the council's majority bloc shortly after the new council began, would double the assessment level of property in Manila starting January 2005. For commercial property, the assessment level would increase to 50 percent next year, from the current 25 percent.

Taxes for residential property would also become more pricey, as the assessment level would be twice as much, or 20 percent, this coming January.

The assessment level is the value multiplied to existing real tax rates to compute the tax dues that a given land owner should pay. Tax rates, meanwhile, remained untouched at its present levels: 2.5 percent for residential lots and 3 percent for commercial property.

Manila taxpayers may pay their annual real property tax dues in four or two installments, or in one bulk payment.

The revision of the city's revenue code, that repeals the 9-year-old City Ordinance 7905 laying down the current land assessment levels, was seen as an effort to bring the city's real tax rates at par with other Metro Manila cities.

Councilors said the measure was meant to boost the city's revenues, adding that land assessment levels in Makati City and Quezon City were higher than that of Manila.

# Body of retired cop dumped in Marikina

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE BODY of a former police officer was found in an open canal yesterday morning in Marikina City, police said.

The three bullet wounds on the back of Nehemias dela Cruz's head indicated he was executed, according to Supt. Romeo Abaring, deputy chief of police.

The police were still trying to determine at press time what kind of gun was used on the victim, who held the rank of senior police officer 4 when he retired early this year.

However, one thing was clear: the 56-year-old former officer from Pangarap Village, Caloocan City, was murdered, police said.

Dela Cruz's cellular phone, money—20 crisp P1,000 bills—were found intact inside his wallet, which also contained his driver's license.

"This is no robbery. It's deeper than that," Abaring said.

Residents found dela Cruz's body at about 7 a.m. on C.M. Recto Extension in Barangay Parang.

Police said it was likely that his body was just dumped in the area. But they were also investigating reports that Cruz was last seen with three men near the Marikina-San Mateo (Rizal) boundary.

"Salvage victims are not usually left in that area. We believe either his killer knows the place, or he did," Abaring said.

Abaring said Dela Cruz used to be an investigation officer for the Novaliches Police.

A Scene of the Crime Operation unit was dispatched to inspect the area and examine the body.

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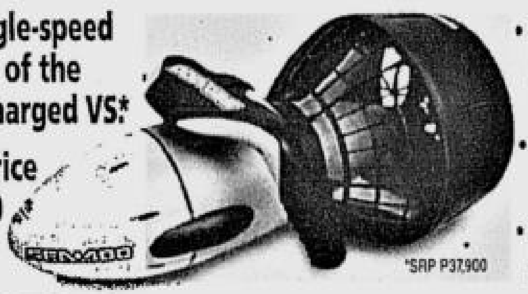

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# Pregnant pupil blames PE teacher

A PUBLIC elementary school teacher in Pasay City was accused of sexual harassment and rape by a former student.

Physical Education teacher Alfredo de Guzman, 44, of the Padre Zamora Elementary School was charged but was released by prosecutors pending a preliminary investigation.

The girl, 14, now reportedly six months pregnant, claimed that the teacher raped her twice last March in a warehouse at the school.

In her statement to the police, the girl said De Guzman, told her that she would not be able to graduate because she had failed in his class.

After the alleged rape, De Guzman reportedly told her that she could already join the graduating class.

De Guzman denied the allegations. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

# CCP turns 35; honors artists, patrons in rites

THE GAWAD CCP para sa Sining Awards highlights the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Cultural Center of the Philippines today.

The Gawad Awards, the highest awards given by the CCP to outstanding artists and cultural workers, will be given at 7 p.m. at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo.

To be honored are choreographer Eddie Elejar, composer Ryan P. Cayabyab, Philippine Educational Theater Associaton founder Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, movie and stage director Peque Gallaga, broadcast journalist Che Che Lazaro, the late artist Santiago Bose, writer Rene O. Villanueva, architect Francisco T. Manosa, Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation Inc., the late INQUIRER columnist Doreen G. Fernandez, Mindulani Inc. and Antonio O. Cojuangco.

A special award, the Tanging Parangal ng CCP Award, will also be given. It is awarded to individuals or organizations in recognition of their outstanding efforts and contributions that have had a significant impact on the arts.

The new CCP chimes will be launched and the winning entry in the Name the CCP Building contest will be announced during a press luncheon at noon. The CCP chimes are sounded in the CCP theaters as a signal to the audience that a performance is about to start. The music for the new CCP chimes was taken from "Prelude Ethnica" by National Artist Lucrecia R. Kasilag and was arranged for a guitar quartet by Jose Valdez. The Kasilag Guitar Quartet will perform.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman will open the Pilak Multi-media exhibit at 5 p.m. at the CCP Bulwagang Francisco. The exhibit celebrates the 25th year of the CCP Outreach Division and highlights the work of the CCP in the regions.

There will also be exhibits on the Gawad CCP para sa Sining at the Main Theater Lobby and on the history of the CCP at the 2nd Floor Hallway.

The CCP was created in 1966 through Executive Order No. 30. It was inaugurated on Sept. 8, 1969 upon completion of the CCP Main Building, which was designed by National Artist Leandro Locsin.

Its mission-vision today is to nurture and promote artistic excellence, Filipino aesthetics and identity, and positive cultural values toward a humanistic global society.

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Statue Of The Virgin In A Dome Immersed In The *Miraculous* Water Of Lourdes?

If you have one or more wishes you would like to come true quickly, read the following, before it's too late:

During my last trip to Europe, I was amazed to see how many people had these sumptuous statues of the Virgin. But what surprised me most was that this statue — made in Lourdes, France -- is covered by a clear dome *FILLED WITH THE MIRACULOUS WATER OF LOURDES.*

The first question that came to mind was: "Just why do so many people have this statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes?"

I immediately went to Lourdes to find out. What I discovered there is amazing.

It is no surprise that for more than a century, two million pilgrims have been traveling annually to Lourdes to be close to these waters with their limitless powers. And some of these individuals even manage to bring back some of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes with them.

**Water from Lourdes: Miraculous Water with limitless powers**

The Virgin has appeared *18 times* in Lourdes. And so Lourdes is considered to be the prime location on earth for powerful beneficial forces — the place where the world's most numerous and astounding miracles occur. There is no scientific explanation for the beneficial forces concentrated in the waters flowing from the sacred source in the Cave of Miracles.

**Wherever this Water goes, the beneficial powers of Lourdes follow**

A vast number of people who possess even a few drops of this water constantly attest to the positive changes and fortunate events that occur in all aspects of their lives: money, love, success, luck, fulfillment and happiness.

It is perhaps even more incredible that these fortunate events occur for people of all races, creeds and origins!

Even for non-believers! And the kinds of miracles that occur are wide ranging and varied. Thousands of testimonials are incontestable proof of these miracles.

For example, there are those who needed money -- and received it unexpectedly:

- Mr Michael Jalik got more than half a million dollars less than one month after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes.
- Ms Jeanne Connell won $20,000.00 shortly after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes. She gave some to her daughter, who immediately won $3,000.00.
- Only 6 hours after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes, Mrs. Laura Haber, who had been experiencing financial difficulties, unexpectedly received $75,000.00.

And these are just 3 examples. Three examples among thousands upon thousands of others.

Five thousand scientists who were skeptical or who didn't believe in the supernatural powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes went to Lourdes to study them. And while they could not explain all the miracles they observed, they had to admit these miracles did in fact occur. They even certified that the Water of Lourdes is genuinely miraculous.

**For the first time you can now receive this authentic statue of the Virgin covered in a dome filled with the Miraculous Water of Lourdes**

If you cannot travel to Lourdes, France, and to these Miraculous Waters.... the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes can now come to you. And they can stay with you. Not just for a few days or a few weeks. But *FOREVER*. Don't forget that *wherever* this Water goes, the limitless powers of Lourdes go with it.

Each statue of the Virgin is made in Lourdes and hand-painted by talented craftsmen. Each statue is then covered with a phosphorescent mystic substance to make it glow in the dark. Then these craftsmen protect the statue in a clear protective dome filled with the Miraculous Water, taken directly from the original source in the Cave of Miracles.

Consequently, it is no surprise the value of this statue and the Miraculous Water in which it is immersed is inestimable. What's more, the source of Lourdes Water is small and the demand for its water is worldwide.

**If you have any wishes you want to come true quickly, order your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Water of Lourdes. A contribution of only P299 is requested per statue to cover its importation expense.**

As president of the Lourdes Research Organization, I was able to bring some statues back with me on my return from Europe. To my knowledge, this is the first time -- and perhaps the last — they are available. And quantities are very limited.

To receive one or more statues, just fill in and mail the coupon below to the indicated address. We ask a mere contribution of P299 per statue to contribute to their distribution costs (airfreight charges, insurance and customs handling).

Unfortunately, we probably will not be able to meet all requests. To benefit from this very special offer, please sign the document appearing on the coupon. By doing so you agree merely to send us a brief letter about the fortunate and unexpected events you experience thanks to the powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes surrounding your statue.

President, Lourdes Research Organization

**Note:** Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't you think it would be a shame to fail to benefit from this special offer today, by responding too late?

To be sure to reserve your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes, fill in the coupon below right now and mail it today -- *and no later than midnight on Friday of next week.*

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Each statue of the Virgin is accompanied by a certificate attesting:

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# Muntinlupa City hit by garbage haulers' strike

**By Martin P. Marfil, Nancy C. Carvajal and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

GARBAGE haulers appealed for understanding as they launched a strike yesterday, paralyzing trash collection operations in Muntinlupa City.

Samahan ng mga Manggagawa sa REN Transport spokesperson Romualdo Hernandez said about 600 union members and members of their families had started to picket the firm's garages in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, Muntinlupa and Rodriguez, Rizal, because their employer had not been paying their salaries. They also accused REN Transport of unfair labor practices.

The strike prevented about 100 garbage trucks from leaving their garages.

Workers filed their notice of strike on July 7 after management dismissed 29 union officers and 20 other workers. The union claimed that REN had violated provisions in their Collective Bargaining Agreement like non-conversion of unused vacation leaves, lack of medical assistance, delayed payment of salaries and management's failure to pay Social Security System premiums.

Drivers at the firm get about P250 daily, while their collectors are paid P200 to P230.

But Hernandez said that management deducts P50 for "abuloy" or death assistance contributions and P20 for an undetermined reason every time they get their pay slips. The "abuloy," he said, is supposed to go to the union, but these were never turned over, he added.

Conciliation meetings were held after the filing of the strike notice and, on Aug. 6, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas certified the case to the National Labor Relations Commission that ordered the case for compulsory arbitration. On the last day of conciliation meetings, management told workers it had no capacity to pay them.

Transport Corp. is owned by Nilo Pazcoguin, workers said. The INQUIRER tried to get their side of the story, but failed to talk to any of its officers. According to an employee who refused to be identified, almost everyone left after learning about the strike. The workers also went on strike in 2002 and 2003.

Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi ordered the city's Environment and Sanitation Center to take the necessary steps to cushion the impact of the strike.

Nine barangays in Muntinlupa were affected by the strike, except Ayala Alabang Village that has another garbage collector, apart from REN Transport.

Yesterday, Malabon City Mayor Canuto Oreta called an emergency meeting to discuss contingency plans for the possible garbage collection crisis. Malabon is one of the cities in the metropolis that had hired the private hauler's services for daily garbage collection.

The strike nearly paralyzed the garbage collection in at least 15 of the 21 barangays in the city.

But because REN Transport had delegated garbage collection in the remaining six barangays to a partner private hauler, Oreta managed to convince the hauler to collect the garbage in the 15 affected barangays.

Oreta said he had already talked to other private haulers should the standoff between REN Transport and its employees continue. He said he would also lend some of his family's trucks to help in the collection.

The mayor is also considering an earlier plan to reopen the city dump in Barangay Catmon that the environment department closed early this year.

San Juan town, however, is not affected by the garbage strike, according to the town's chief information minister Jonnabelle Lee. REN Transport is just one of its contractors, she said.

The cities in Eastern Metro Manila are not as troubled. Marikina City collects its own garbage. Officials of Pasig City and Mandaluyong City said REN Transport is not one of their contractors. *With Luige del Puerto*

# Makati City maps identify cheap routes

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**

FINALLY, a map that would enable commuters to choose cheaper routes.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) would be distributing this week transit maps which specify the routes of jeepneys and buses in Makati City.

"This would be especially helpful for commuters and tourists who do not know proper and alternative routes," said MMDA-JICA Senior Urban Development Adviser Yoshio Tanaka.

With the map, commuters will be able to choose the most convenient route and mode of transportation, thus saving on fare.

The map identifies public utility vehicle routes and end terminals, except those of FX taxis and tricycles, which do not have particular routes.

The map, which took JICA three months to put together, also includes a fare matrix of buses, jeepneys, lightrail and metrorail transits.

"Filipinos are not fond of reading maps so we made them less complicated," MMDA-JICA executive secretary Malou Andrada said.

The map will be given away for free.

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**Evelyn Cristobal, Calamba City**

# Alleged Yakuza man arrested at BI office

**By Jerome Aning**

A JAPANESE man suspected to be a former member of the Yakuza gang was arrested at the Bureau of Immigration central office in Intramuros, Manila, the other day while he was applying for an extension of his tourist visa.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said Takamashi Tatsuhiko, 48, had been wanted by the International Police and the Tokyo police since March 11 for destruction of property.

Quoting the Tokyo police, Fernandez said Tatsuhiko was a former member of the Boryokudan gang, a faction of the Yakusa criminal syndicate.

Tatsuhiko's case stemmed from an incident on Aug. 13, 2003, when he and three alleged accomplices rammed their car into the gate of the Adachi Glue Corp. in Tokyo.

The bureau also found a separate deportation complaint against Tatsuhiko. It was filed by his estranged Filipina live-in partner, whom the BI did not identify.

The woman said the suspect had been operating an unregistered business in Manila called Tsudoi Construction Co. without her permission and authority.

She also complained that her husband, who returned from Japan a few weeks ago, had been carrying an unlicensed gun which he would allegedly often fire indiscriminately in their neighborhood in Parañaque City.

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# Leaner SEA Games on the cards

## Economic crisis may force organizers to slash events in some calendared sports

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE POSSIBILITY of a pruned-down calendar in the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games looms large in the light of the prevailing economic crisis, but Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit stressed there's a need for a rational basis to slash events in certain sports.

Dayrit's announcement followed a call by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain to reduce the number of events in the SEA Games to fit into a tight operating budget.

Buhain said this would help cut costs and fuel the country's medal machine at the same time.

"We should try to take out the events where we are weak and maintain only those where we can win gold," he said yesterday.

The PSC head added he would make a proposal to this effect during the SEA Games Federation meeting slated Oct. 11-12.

Dayrit, however, said improving the country's medal chances should not be used as a reason to reduce the number of events in the SEAG calendar.

"We should not present it in such a way that it would appear we're merely trying to improve our chances," he said. "We should have a rational basis for cutting out an event. And I think the current economic situation is a very serious reason to do so."

The SEAG Federation has discussed, as early as March, the possibility of trimming the events in the biennial meet.

Expected to be affected by the reduction are big multi-event sports such as athletics, swimming, shooting, gymnastics and cycling. Athletics alone has 45 events.

The federation has approved the inclusion of 34 sports in the Manila Games, with weightlifting and lawn tennis expected to be included.

Dayrit earlier said it might be possible for the budget to be reduced to P500 million, although he failed to state the impact of such cutdown on the scheduled repairs of Games venues.

---

UKRAINE MEET

## IM Paragua zeroes in on crown

**Standings after round 14:**

**10.5**—IM M. Paragua (RP); **10**—IM Y. Kuzubov (Ukraine), IM R. Ovetchkin (Russia); **8.5**—IM A. Gbukhov (Russia); **8.0**—IM D. Neelotpal (India); **7.0**—GM V. Malaniuk (Ukraine), IM A. Alexikov (Ukraine); **6.5**—IM Sergey Vokarev (Russia), IM O. Annageldyev (Turkmenistan), FM Evgeni Kobylkin (Ukraine), **6.0**—GM Sergey Kalygin (Russia); **5.5**—IM E. Danielian (Armenia), GM R. Hasangatin (Russia)

ASSURED of his second grandmaster result, Mark Paragua is bent on claiming the Alushta Tournament crown in Alushta, Ukraine as well.

PARAGUA

The 20-year-old Filipino bested fellow IM Elina Danielian of Armenia in the 14th and penultimate round to regain solo leadership in the 16-man field with 10.5 points, half a point ahead of IMs Yuriy Kuzubov of Ukraine and Roman Ovetchkin of Russia.

Blocking Paragua's path to the title is Ukrainian IM Evgeni Kobylkin, who is out of the title race at 6.5 points.

A victory will make Paragua the first Filipino since the late GM Rosendo Balinas Jr. to win a tournament in a former republic of the defunct Soviet Union. Balinas did the trick in the Odessa tournament in 1976, earning him the GM title outright.

"It would be a big bonus if I win here. My original target was only the GM norm," said Paragua through e-mail.

Kuzubov, tied with the Filipino after 13 rounds, halved the point with Russian GM Ramil Hasangatin while Ovetchkin stunned top seed GM Vladimir Malaniuk of Ukraine to stay in the hunt for the title and a GM result.

IM PARAGUA/ A26

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RETRO HITS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Play That Funky Music | Robert Parissi | TONE FUNKYMUSIC |
| 2 | Build Me Up, Buttercup | The Foundations | TONE BUTTERCUP |
| 3 | Can't Take My Eyes Off You | Living Jazz | TONE CANTTAKE |
| 4 | If You Could Read My Mind | Stars on 54 | TONE IFUCLDREAD |
| 5 | Lady Marmalade | Patti LaBelle | TONE MARMALADE |
| 6 | Rock With You | Michael Jackson | TONE ROCKWU |
| 7 | I Will Survive | Gloria Gaynor | TONE ISURVIVE |
| 8 | Son of A Preacher Man | Dusty Springfield | TONE SONOFA |
| 9 | Get Down On It | Kool & The Gang | TONE GETDOWN |
| 10 | Love Shack | B-52s | TONE LUVSHAK |

POP HITS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Let's Get It Started | Black Eyed Peas | TONE LETSGET |
| 2 | My Happy Ending | Avril Lavigne | TONE HAPPYEND |
| 3 | Take My Breath Away | Jessica Simpson | TONE TAKEBREATH |
| 4 | New Deep | John Mayer | TONE NEWDEEP |
| 5 | Sunday Morning | Maroon 5 | TONE SUNDAYMORN |
| 6 | If I Ain't Got You | Alicia Keys | TONE AINTGOTU |
| 7 | Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours | Blue | TONE SIGNED |
| 8 | Confessions Pt. 2 | Usher | TONE CONFPT2 |
| 9 | I'll Never Get Over You (Getting Over Me) | Bellefire | TONE NVRGETOVR |
| 10 | Everytime | Britney Spears | TONE EVERYTIME |

OPM Hits

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kikay | Viva Hotbabes | TONE KIKAY |
| 2 | Hands To Heaven | Christian Bautista | TONE HANDS2HVN |
| 3 | Now That I Have You | The Company | TONE NOWDATIHAVU |
| 4 | Sasakyan | K & The Boxers | TONE SASAKYAN |
| 5 | 2 Trick Pony | Sandwich | TONE 2TRICK |
| 6 | Anak Ni Luningning | Denmark | TONE ANAKNI |
| 7 | Let Me Be The One | Jimmy Bondoc | TONE LETMEBE2 |
| 8 | Ba't Di Mo Pagbigyan | King | TONE BATDIMO |
| 9 | Nananaginip Ng Gising | Sarah Geronimo | TONE NANANAGINIP |
| 10 | Give It All | Rachelle Ann Go | TONE GIVEALL |

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MMS 3ROSES
MMS JOKER
MMS LOVE1
MMS BLUEDOLPH
MMS BOYLOVE
MMS HOTCAR1

PIC MESSAGES
PIC HELLO6
PIC ILOVEYOU
PIC HOTKISS
PIC TNXJESUS
PIC UMAKE1
PIC GAME1
PIC THINKOFU1
PIC NEEDMISS
PIC SASAKYAN1
PIC STAYKUL1

NEW WAVE HITS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Don't You (Forget About Me) | Simple Minds | TONE DONTYOU |
| 2 | 99 Luftballoons | Nena | TONE 99RED |
| 3 | Always Something There To Remind Me | Naked Eyes | TONE SUMTINDER |
| 4 | Rio | Duran Duran | TONE RIO |
| 5 | Suburbia | Pet Shop Boys | TONE SUBURB |
| 6 | Girls Just Wanna Have Fun | Cyndi Lauper | TONE GRLSJUST |
| 7 | Come On Eileen | Dexy's Midnight Runners | TONE COMEONEI |
| 8 | Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic | The Police | TONE LITLTHNG |
| 9 | Just Can't Get Enough | Depeche Mode | TONE JUSTCANT |
| 10 | Shout | Tears for Fears | TONE SHOUT |

POLYTONES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Hands To Heaven | Christian Bautista | POLY HANDS2HVN |
| 2 | My Happy Ending | Avril Lavigne | POLY HAPPYEND |
| 3 | Everytime | Britney Spears | POLY EVERYTIME |
| 4 | Until I Get Over You | Christina Milian | POLY GETOVER |
| 5 | Breaking The Habit | Linkin Park | POLY BREAKHABIT |
| 6 | Sunday Morning | Maroon 5 | POLY SUNDAYMORN |
| 7 | Somewhere Only We Know | Keane | POLY SOMWER |
| 8 | Your Smiling Face | James Taylor | POLY SMILEFACE |
| 9 | Sasakyan | K & The Boxers | POLY SASAKYAN |
| 10 | The Extremist | Joe Satriani | POLY EXTREMIST |

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| Guy Logos | POWGUY |
| Pic Message | POWPIC |
| Mono Ringtones | POWTONE |
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LOGO FYOU
LOGO KIKAY2
LOGO JESUS5
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# Laoag elims set Sunday

FRESH off its record-setting sorties in the Visayas and Mindanao, the 28th National Milo Marathon's search for the country's top runners returns to Luzon with the staging this Sunday of the Laoag City elimination run.

Reynaldo Pascua and Rabin Dalog loom as the top favorites in the race, but former Tuguegarao winner Rodolfo Tacadino could pose an upset.

In the women's class, all eyes will be on Vilma Butac.

The Laoag City race, the 11th leg of the Milo marathon, is organized by the provincial sports office headed by former Gintong Alay director Michael Keon, a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Keon is expecting about 6,000 participants to join the event.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos graced the launch of the race while former First Lady Imelda Marcos is expected to drop by during the marathon, which is held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Cebu Pacific, adidas, Globe Handyphone and the Department of Tourism.

# IM Paragua zeroes in . . .

From page A25

One thing going for Paragua is that Kuzubov and Ovetchkin are not expected to go all out in their last outing.

Kuzubov, who will meet Malaniuk, and Ovetchkin, who will go up against Nino Khurtsidze of Georgia, only need draws to obtain GM results. *Marlon Bernardino*

# RP-Burlington Youth squad lands in Group C with favorite S. Korea

AS IF its manpower shortage was not enough, the RP-Burlington Youth team found itself in the toughest bracket of the 18th ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) Junior Men's Championship slated Sept. 14-23 in Bangalore, India.

The Filipinos, missing eight mainstays, wound up in Group C with the South Koreans, the Lebanese and the Kuwaitis in the 16-nation tournament for players 18 years and under.

Singapore, runner-up to the Philippines in the Southeast Asia Basketball Association Junior Men's Championship held in Lucena City last April, is in Group A with China, Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia.

Competing in Group B are Iran, Kyrgyztan, Japan and Chinese-Taipei.

Expectedly, host India landed in lightweight Group D with Qatar, Hong Kong and Yemen.

ROGEMAR Menor (left) will be badly missed. RUDY ESPERAS

"Without my starters, I'm worried about our chances in Group C. Korea is tough to beat while Lebanon is tall, big and strong," said RP coach Johnny Tam.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals, where they will be split into two groups.

Tam was referring to starters Rogemar Menor, Jay-R Taganas, James Martinez, Jayson Castro, who are all playing in the ongoing NCAA tourney, and Kevin Astorga, who is now in the US. The five powered RP-Burlington Youth to a sweep of the Lucena qualifier.

Expected to step up for the nationals are 6'2 Dylan Ababou, 6'1 Darryl Bautista, 6'1 Alvin Calatayud, 6'3 Jerby Cruz and 6'5 Angelo Canlas who are all Tuklas-Taas discoveries.

Though aware of the RP Youth's predicament, Burlington socks president Pete Tan and GM Ruddy Tan have given the go-signal for its participation in the meet.

"We're doing our best to prepare our boys mentally and physically for the big battle ahead," said Ruddy Tan.

# Lions, Cards dispute last Final Four berth

**THE FINAL Four cast of the NCAA men's basketball will be completed today as the San Beda Lions and the Mapua Cardinals fight for the last slot at the Araneta Coliseum.**

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Perpetual | 10 | 4 |
| PCU | 10 | 4 |
| Letran | 9 | 5 |
| San Beda | 7 | 7 |
| Mapua | 7 | 7 |
| SSC | 7 | 7 |
| JRU | 4 | 10 |
| St. Benilde | 2 | 12 |

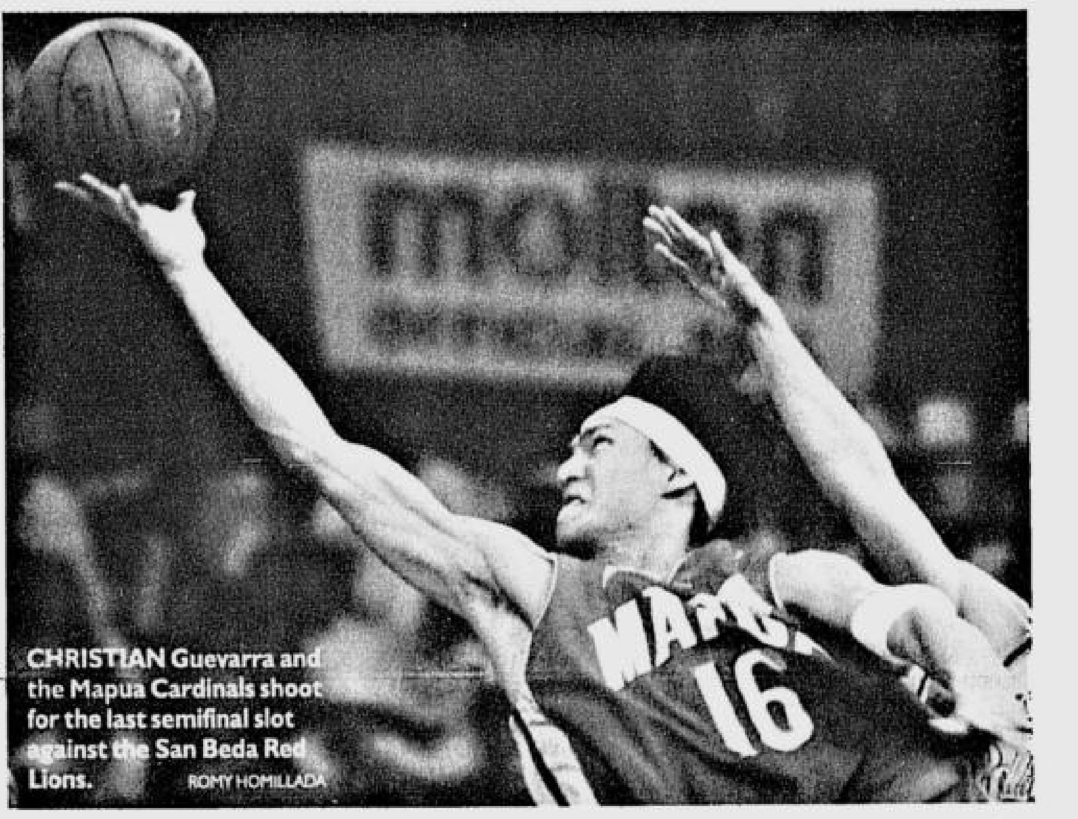
**GAMES TODAY**
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Nestlé Cheering Competition
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Playoff)

San Beda, Mapua and San Sebastian wound up in a three-way tie at the end of the elimination round with 7-7 slates. However, only the Lions and the Cardinals will figure in the 4 p.m. knockout match due to their superior tie-break quotients.

The Cardinals are tagged as the underdogs because they will play without their leading scorer, Erwin Sta. Maria. The fifth-year forward who averages 16.1 points per game will serve his one-game suspension today after hitting Perpetual Help's Vladimir Joe in their last outing.

The winner of today's match will battle top-seed Perpetual Help Altas in the semifinals on Friday. Philippine Christian University and Letran will tangle in the other game.

By virtue of their better elimination records, the Altas and the PCU Dolphins need only to win once to barge into the Finals. Their rivals will have to prevail twice to advance.



CHRISTIAN Guevarra and the Mapua Cardinals shoot for the last semifinal slot against the San Beda Red Lions. ROMY HOMILLADA

San Beda and Mapua split their elimination games. The Cardinals proved steadier in the first round as they rose from a 15-point deficit in the final quarter to score a 68-65 win. Arjun Cordero topscored with 21 points as the Lions exacted revenge in the second round with a 79-73 decision.

While Mapua is vying for a second straight shot at the semis, San Beda is eyeing its first Final Four appearance in seven years. *Jasmine W. Payo*

# CEU cagers barge into semis

CENTRO Escolar squeezed into the Final Four with a resounding 77-50 victory over Holy Angel University of Pampanga yesterday in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball tournament at the UM gym.

The Scorpions nailed their ninth win in 15 outings, practically securing a place in the next round along with University of Manila and St. Clare College of Caloocan.

CEU held Holy Angel, which slumped to 1-14, to just four points in the first quarter and nine in the entire first half.

Dexter Carillo topscored with 16 points for the Scorpions, while June Macasaet added 14 points aside from grabbing eight rebounds and issuing six assists.

In the other game, three-time champion University of Manila boosted its unbeaten streak to 14 by routing Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 93-66. The Hawks are now 67-0 since 2001, the year the league started.

The Eagles fell to 8-6 and failed to snag a Final Four berth, although they remained in fourth place, half a game in front of University of Makati.

UMak dropped a 102-95 decision to New Era University, which kept its hopes alive of making the semis. The Hunters are 6-7 and need to sweep their three remaining games to gain a playoff for the last semis berth. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| UM | 14 | 0 |
| St. Clare | 11 | 4 |
| CEU | 9 | 6 |
| PLP | 8 | 6 |
| UMak | 8 | 7 |
| NEU | 6 | 7 |
| AMA | 6 | 8 |
| STI | 1 | 12 |
| HAU | 1 | 14 |

**GAMES TOMORROW** (*New Era Gym*)
10 a.m.—NEU vs UM
(UM Gym) 2 p.m.—CEU vs St. Clare (Women)
3:30 p.m.—UMak vs PLP (Srs)

# RP's Gabi main fighter in WBC convention

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

SO WHO'S Pongsaklek Wongjongkam? Why are his countrymen in Thailand crazy over him?

It was not him but Manus Bunjonmong who won the light welterweight boxing gold medal for his country in the Athens Olympics.

You haven't heard of Wongjongkam, and neither do you know who Diosdado Gabi is.

Listen. Wongjongkam is Thailand's hottest boxing property, a national treasure that's more illustrious than our own Manny Pacquiao.

He was the same fellow who beat RP's Malcolm Tuñacao in March 2001 to capture the World Boxing Council flyweight crown.

He has made a total of 10, repeat: 10, title defenses.

He has, in short, been elevated as Thai national sports hero, the reason the good-looking Wongjongkam, 27, is being offered as centerpiece fighter in next month's WBC convention in Phuket, a fabulous recreation capital.

***

Now the big news: Gabi, 24, has been picked to challenge Wongjongkam.

This could be the first time you've heard of Gabi.

You're free to suspect he's being offered as a sacrificial lamb, a gift for the Thai world champ and his countrymen to highlight the annual WBC fistiana.

Gabi, a native of Davao and now an adopted son of North Cotabato, has earned the crack at the world title as the WBC International flyweight titlist.

That means he's the best among WBC flyweights ranked 11th down, but Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato, whose brother, Socrates, manages Gabi, was quick to add that their fighter is also officially ranked 10th by the WBC.

***

Gabi, a southpaw like the Thai champ, has a 21-2-1 win-loss-draw record with 16 knockouts.

Wongjongkam is 52-2, with 29 KOs.

Needless to say, Gabi will enter the ring an awful underdog.

Governor Piñol, during a meeting with NBN officials headed by GM Joey Isabelo on Monday, said all he could promise is that Gabi will provide a great challenge.

Told that the Thai is a terrific blitz fighter who rolled over Tuñacao like a locomotive for a merciless first-round title steal in Pichit, Thailand, three years ago, Piñol said they are preparing a special strategy.

He was scheduled to watch Gabi spar yesterday noon at the L&M Gym where the WBC International flyweight champ has been training under Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's Filipino handler.

Piñol said he's very thankful to Team Pacquiao for its wholehearted support to Gabi's title quest.

***

So mark the date: Oct. 8, Friday.

The National Broadcasting Network will cover the championship.

Wongjongkam could, indeed, loom invincible, but Gabi is no stranger to insurmountable odds.

Only his handlers thought he had a chance against the fire-breathing Randy Mangubat, whom he later outclassed to take the WBC International crown in Kidapawan last year.

Shortly before the last presidential polls, Gabi stopped a tough Thai challenger in five rounds, also in Kidapawan.

Gabi was the same fellow described to Quinito Henson by the great American trainer Emmanuel Steward as very talented.

Yes, Wongjongkam has the fearsome reputation of clipping and nailing his foes early.

But then, Gabi, also known as Prince, could be slippery as an eel.

He said the Thai boxing celebrity cannot do to him what he had done to Tuñacao.

Gabi appeared eager and ready to upset the entire Kingdom of Thailand.

***

(**GOLF INVITE:** From Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, parish priest of Lipa City: "We are now in the third year of our annual Lipa Cathedral Fund Raising Golf Tournament. The past two years were successful in terms of participation and net proceeds for the San Sebastian Cathedral Pipe Organ Foundation. This year, proceeds of the golf tournament scheduled at the Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa will go to the construction of a second conference hall at the San Sebastian Retreat House. Tee-off will be at 6 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 17. For particulars please call San Sebastian Cathedral (043) 7562142 loc. 1 or 2.")

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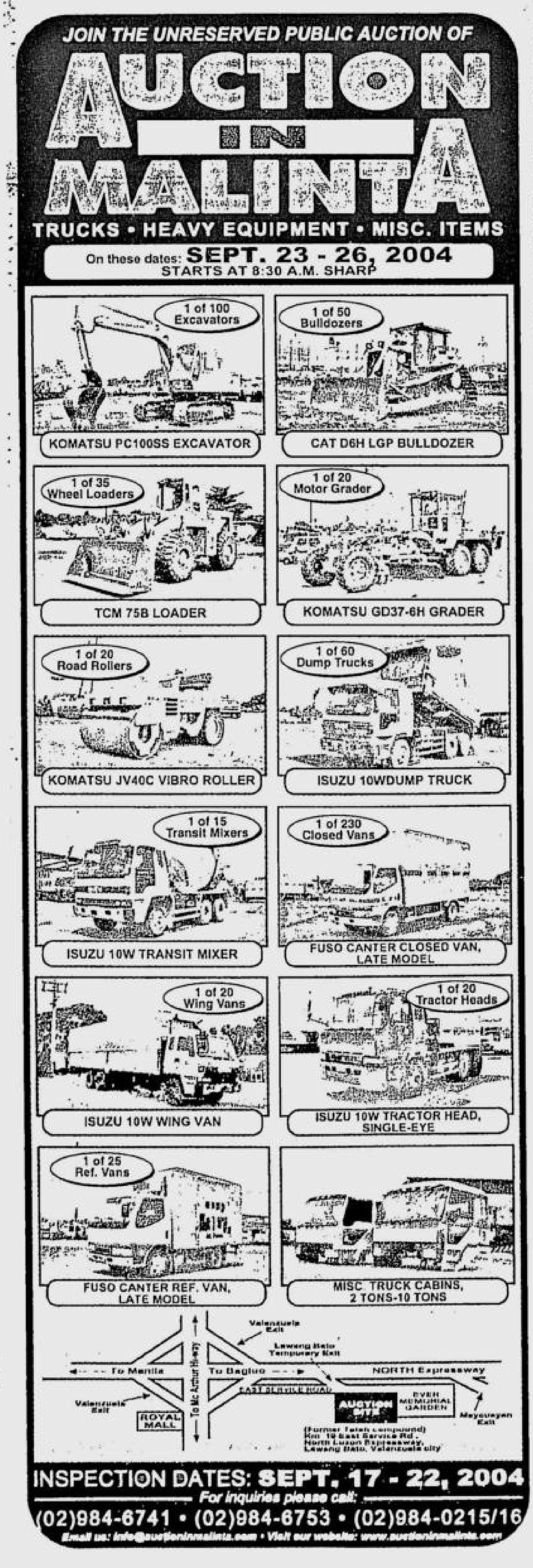

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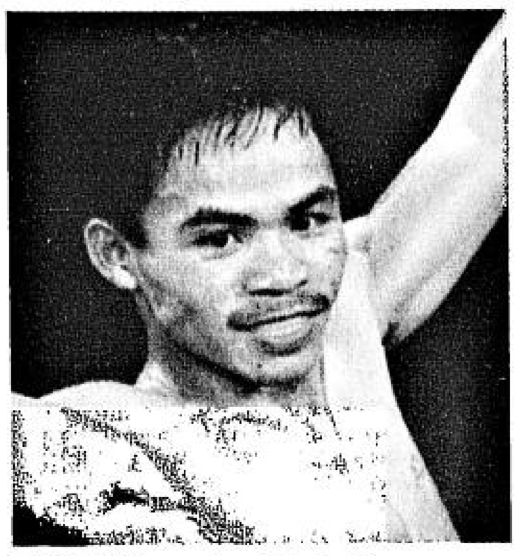
# Pacquiao, Z off to US today



PACQUIAO remains without a foe.

**PEOPLE'S featherweight king Manny Pacquiao leaves for the United States today to start training for a soon-to-be-announced fight under the watchful eyes of trainer Freddie Roach in Hollywood, California.**

Pacquiao will be accompanied by young Cebu sensation Z "The Dream" Gorres, who is also scheduled to hook up with Roach. Joining the duo in the trip is Pacquiao's business manager, Rod Nazario, RP junior lightweight champ Bobby Pacquiao, and trainer Restituto "Buboy" Fernandez.

Pacquiao remains without a foe even though he is ready to fight either WBC-IBF junior lightweight champ Erik Morales or Marco Antonio Barrera, the Mexican boxing hero whom the Filipino shamed in San Antonio, Texas, in November last year.

It was announced earlier that Morales would fight Barrera on Nov. 27 at the MGM Grand, but the former said his planned third bout with Barrera is not yet etched in stone. He said he prefers to face Pacquiao first.

World Boxing Council superbantam champ Oscar Larios of Mexico has also expressed interest in moving up in weight to fight Pacquiao.

Meanwhile, Gorres is also expected to fight in the US, according to his manager, Rudy Salud. Gorres is coming off a unanimous decision win over Thai Sairung Suwanasil last Saturday.

*Salven L. Lagumbay*

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# 29ers score sans injured top sentinel

ILOILO CITY—Batangas bucked the loss of its starting guard to repulse the skidding Iloilo Warriors, 77-66, Monday night in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the University of San Agustin gym here.

The 29ers were trailing 9-13 early in the first quarter when guard Jay Lapinid fell badly, dislocating his shoulder.

The 29ers of Malvar Mayor Cristeta Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Bernie Maranan used Lapinid's injury as a rallying point to score their fifth win in nine games.

After Lapinid's departure, the 29ers went on a 12-0 tear to surge ahead, 23-13, going into the second period and enjoyed their biggest lead at 49-35 midway in the third canto.

The Warriors, backed by the Iloilo Basketball League, led by its president, Robert Uy, fought back behind the sallies of former Mapua Cardinal Steve Marucot and seldom-used Elbert Senierez to trim the 29ers' lead to 46-51.

But ex-pro Sonny Manucat closed the quarter with back-to-back triples to widen the gap anew, 54-46.

"This is for Jay (Lapinid)," said coach Yong Garcia. "Before he was brought to the hospital, he told us to win this game for him."

Action continues today with two separate contests. The 29ers, pacing the North division, meets the Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu at 4 p.m. at the Cebu Coliseum while the Spring Cooking Oil-sponsored Laguna Spring faces the Baguio Cardinals at 5 p.m. at the University of Baguio gym.

**The scores:**

**BATANGAS 77**—Manucat 14, Mallari 11, Rodriguez 10, Jayson Cuevas 8, Sta. Cruz 6, De Castro 6, Neo 5, Valena 4, Jun Cuevas 4, Saygo 2, Agleron 0, Lapinid 0.

**ILOILO 66**—Sanz 15, Simon 11, sayon 9, Marucot 8, Moreno 8, Sinco 6, Senierez 5, Allado 3, Sina-on 1, Poral 0, Bernardo 0, Leonida 0, Sencil 0.

**Quarters:** 23-13, 41-31, 57-46, 77-66.

# Navy-Wang cagers overwhelm Air 21

NAVY-WANG Red Bull crushed Air 21, 93-77, and Balfour Beatty held off Air Force, 94-92, Monday at the start of the 8th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball quarterfinals at the PAF gym in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

The Navy-Wang cagers of team manager Alex Wang broke away 53-34 at halftime and never looked back to emerge as one of the strong contenders in the tournament organzied by the National Basketball Development League in honor of sportsman-businessman Danny Espiritu.

Mar Reyes hit 26 points as Balfour of Louie Mangahis nipped the Airmen of Col. Roelito Nolasco after taking an 11-point lead at the half.

**The scores:**

**FIRST GAME**

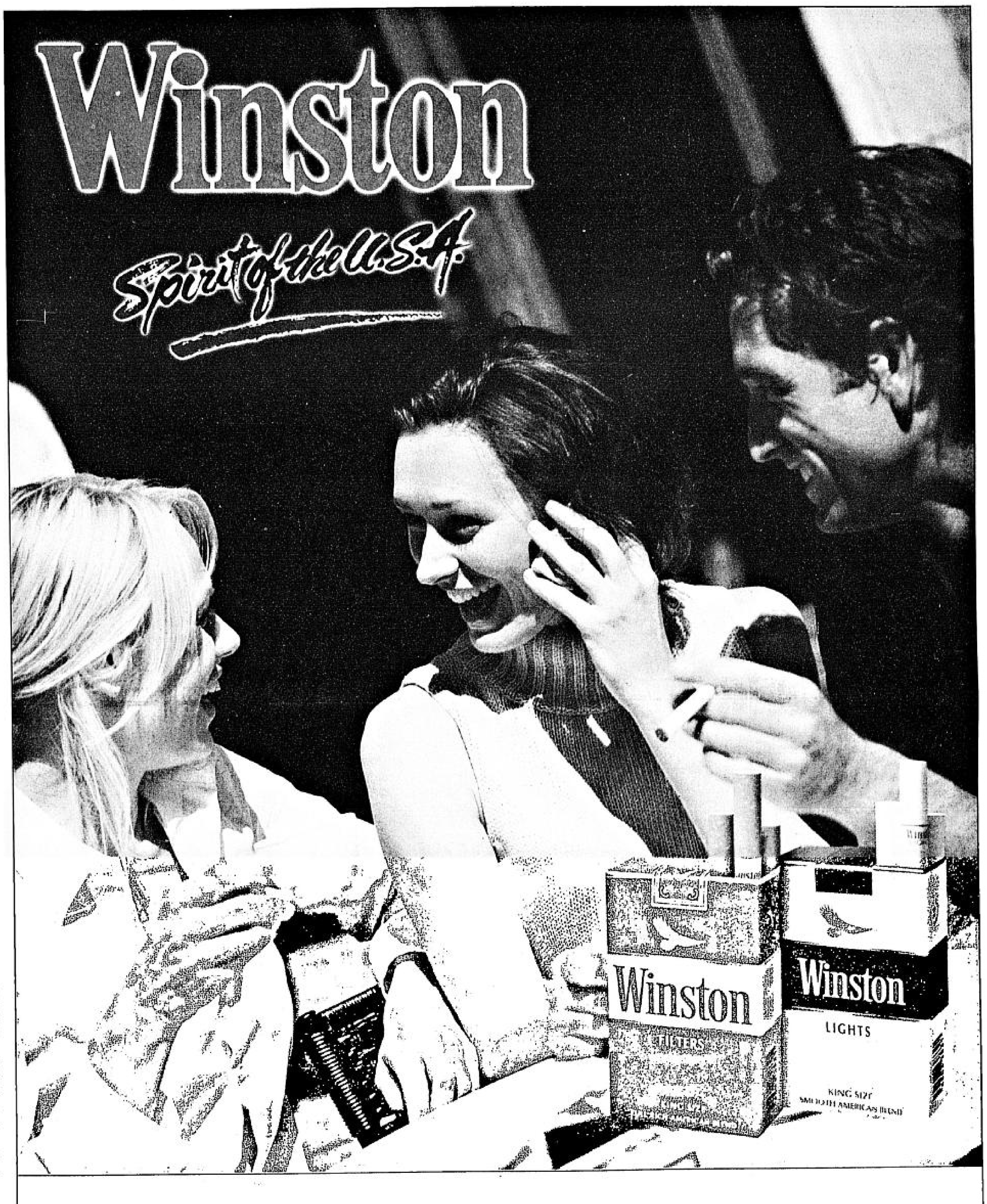
**NAVY 93**—Latoreno 20, Araneta 19, Troipa 18, Sto. Domingo 8, San Esteban 7, Roda 4, Abdula 4, Galiza 3, Binuya 3, Canlas 3, Malaga 2, Asay 2.

**AIR 21 77**—Bravo 24, Ricafuente 19, Tapia 13, Domingo 8, Perasol 6, Yu 5, Jontillano 2.

**SECOND GAME**

**BALFOUR BEATTY 94**—Reyes 26, Epondulan 18, Manuel 12, Kalaw 10, Capobres 8, Garcia 6, Nicdao 5, Santos 5, Corbin 4.

**PAF 92**—Lopez 27, Coldamon 23, Gumatay 12, Tama 10, Hernandez 6, Zuniga 5, Nolasco 2.



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NISSAN

# Singh knocks No. 1 crown off Tiger's head

NORTON, Massachusetts—Tiger Woods, for years the unquestioned king of golf, has become a deposed ruler without a crown.

The American's reign as world number one ended here Monday when Fiji's Vijay Singh birdied three of the last four holes to win the PGA Deutsche Bank Championship, snapping Woods' record run of 264 weeks atop the rankings.

With eight-time major winner Woods not having won a top title since the 2002 US Open and not having captured a 72-hole stroke-play event since last year's Western Open 14 months ago, the rankings tumble merely reflects the times.

Singh has won nearly $8 million and six titles this year. Woods, who has insisted for months his return to form is just around what appears to be an ever-receding corner, won only the World Golf Match-Play title.

"I'm not disappointed about the ranking," Woods said. "I'm disappointed in not winning. As I said, winning takes care of the ranking."

Losing takes it down a notch. Singh owns a 12.72 to 12.27 ranking edge on Woods in a system analyzing two years of play. It's not beyond possibility that South African Ernie Els could overtake Woods as well before the season is complete.

For the moment, golf supremacy belongs to Singh, a 41-year-old veteran who won his third major crown at last month's PGA Championship.

His final-round 69, two-under par, left him on 16-under 268, two strokes atop Woods and Australian Adam Scott.

"It probably hasn't sunk in yet," Singh said of achieving his dream of being world No. 1. "It was a goal from the beginning of the year. But my goal coming over here was win the golf tournament.

"It's great. I've worked pretty hard for this. I finally achieved what I wanted to do starting at the beginning of the year. It was a good win, as well. Coming down the stretch got pretty tight there, but I got focused and I played pretty good coming down." *AFP*

**AFTER 264 weeks as the world's No. 1 golfer, Tiger Woods (left) gives way to Vijay Singh.** AP

# Justine loses title, ranking

**AGASSI: Big match coming up.** REUTERS

NEW YORK—Justine Henin-Hardenne lost her US Open title and her No. 1 ranking Monday night.

The defending champion was upset by Nadia Petrova, 6-3, 6-2, in the fourth round, the earliest exit by the Open's top-seeded woman since Billie Jean King quit because of illness during her third-round match in 1973.

"I never felt good in this tournament. I never felt free in my head. I never felt 100 percent in the court," Henin-Hardenne said. "It wasn't my day, and she played well. She took the opportunities, and it was hard for me."

The Belgian was hurt by what's normally her most consistent and dangerous shot: her one-handed backhand. She missed three crucial shots on that side: on the final point of the first set, and on the last point of each of the two games when Petrova broke her in the second set.

She finished with 30 unforced errors and just 14 winners—a mere three with her backhand. The 14th-seeded Petrova, meanwhile, played attacking tennis and won the point on 19 of 28 trips to the net.

On the men's side, a big-name showdown is looming in the quarterfinals: Andre Agassi vs Roger Federer. Agassi advanced Monday with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over pal and occasional practice partner Sargis Sargsian, who was on court for nearly 10 hours in his previous two outings. This one took 90 minutes.

Federer's opponent, No. 16 Andrei Pavel, pulled out with a bad back.

"There's nothing more you ask for than to play a big event against the best player in this environment," Agassi said. "It's time to bring the best tennis."

With her upset victory, Petrova moved into her second major quarterfinal, where she will meet another Russian, No. 9 Svetlana Kuznetsova. Two other Russian women won the last two Slams: Anastasia Myskina at the French Open and Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon.

"At the moment, Russian tennis is doing so well. We're all so young," Petrova said.

She's 22 and has never won a tour title. Kuznetsova, who beat Mary Pierce, 7-6 (5), 6-2, Monday, is 19 and owns three titles.

"I know her, she's a good friend of mine," Petrova said. "It'll be a good opportunity for one of us to make the semifinals."

Also in the quarterfinals is Lindsay Davenport, who pulled out a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Venus Williams.

Seven major titles and 49 weeks at No. 1 between them, Davenport and Williams swapped powerful strokes and anxious moments in a final act encompassing 24 points over 13 minutes Monday. Nine deuces. Five break points for 2000-01 Open champion Williams. Five match points for 1998 Open champ Davenport. *AP*

# Tabuse nears historic NBA stint

**TABUSE**

TOKYO—Yuta Tabuse has signed for the Phoenix Suns, boosting his hopes of becoming the first Japanese to play in the US National Basketball Association (NBA) regular season, the NBA's Tokyo branch said Monday.

The 23-year-old guard, who took part in the Denver Nuggets' pre-season training camp last year, will join the Phoenix club for the start of the season on October 10.

After failing to make the Nuggets' 12-man roster, he helped Long Beach Jam win the independent American Basketball Association league last season.

Tabuse played with Brigham Young University Hawaii for three years before joining Toyota Alvark of Japan's Super League in 2002.

He quit the Japanese club last year with his sights set on the big-time American league, taking part in Phoenix's camp in July and playing in summer games. *AFP*

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Race 7—1. Stout Hearted 2. Rowena's Pride 3. God is Good 4. Loaded 5. Cruiser
Race 8—1. Once and for All 2. Vice Free 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Easy Rider 5. Prickly Heat 6. Demolition Jack

# SEAG champ leads Nationals in Asian Mountain Bike meet

EUSEBIO Quiñones and Frederick Feliciano will head the country's bid in the 10th Asian Mountain Bike championship set Oct.7-10 in Puerto Princesa City.

Quiñones won the gold medal in the cross-country event of the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam as well as in the inaugural Southeast Asian MTB Championships in June in Danao City, while Feliciano took the bronze in the Vietnam SEAG and the 2002 Asian MTB in Chinese Taipei.

Leading the women's campaign is Marites Bitbit, a bronze medalist in the 2003 Vietnam Sea Games cross-country competition.

Other members of the national team are veteran internationalist Ruel Casaljay, Evic Largo, Michael Borja, Parabane Mendoza, Joey Barba and Niño Surban as well as Mylene Hopeda and Athena Beltran.

The organizing PhilCycling expects 15 Asian countries to participate in the championships. South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Thailand have confirmed their participation.

The world-class cross-country and downhill courses were designed by officials of the national federation for cycling, PhilCycling, and certified by Oscar "Boying" Rodriguez Jr. of Danao City, the country's only international commissar for MTB.

The Asian MTB highlights the Philippine Cycling Festival, which revives the National Open. There will be national competitions on Oct. 3 at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City, a criterium race also on Oct. 3 at the Luneta, a road ITT in Nasugbu on Oct. 4, a massed start road race in Tagaytay City on Oct. 5 and the national MTB in Puerto Princesa.

Interested cyclists and clubs may inquire at 879-4374 or 879-4378 or mobile no. 09272426673.

# Lady Falcons keep Lady Eagles at bay

MERENCIANA Arayi scored 22 points and Marites Gadian added 16 as defending champion Adamson downed University of the Philippines, 71-63, Sunday to remain in the lead in women's basketball action of the 67th UAAP season at the Adamson gym.

Ateneo's Lady Eagles stayed within striking distance by whipping the University of the East Amazons, 65-48.

The victories allowed the Lady Falcons to keep the lead with nine wins and one loss, one and a half games in front of the Lady Eagles, which tote a 7-2 card. Both sides have already booked seats in the Final Four.

La Salle, behind the team-high 14 points of Bunny Galan, stayed in the hunt for a semifinal berth but only after foiling a game University of Santo Tomas five, 60-48.

It was the Lady Archers' fifth win in nine matches, a full game ahead of the Lady Maroons (4-5). UST is at 2-6 but can still make it to the semifinals with a sweep of their last four assignments.

### Eaglets claw Bullpups

In junior play, the Ateneo Eaglets overwhelmed National University Bullpups, 77-46, also last Sunday at the Philsports Arena, to strengthen its title-retention bid.

Ateneo improved its record to 6-4 but still trailed leader UST (10-1) and UP Integrated School (7-3).

In Saturday's matches, De La Salle-Zobel came from behind to nip UPIS, 61-60, and UE, behind the 38 points of Paul Zamar, son of national coach David, clobbered Adamson, 82-65.

DLSZ (5-5) moved ahead of UE (5-6) in the race for the last slot in the Final Four. NU is mired at 2-8, with Adamson hopelessly out of it at 1-9.

### La Salle chessers back on top

In chess, La Salle got its form back in a wink with successive victories to regain the lead in the tournament being played at the University of the East Briefing Room.

The defending champion Archers whitewashed UE, 4-0, Saturday and then toppled erstwhile leader University of Santo Tomas, 2.5-1.5, Sunday to seize the lead with 25.5 points.

La Salle moved a full point ahead of UST, which beat National University, 3.5-0.5, Saturday, and 1.5 points clear of FEU.

In women's play, UST kept the pace by downing UP, 2.5-1.5. The UST belles totaled 26 points, 2.5 in front of UP and 6.5 ahead of third-running UE. Ateneo kept fourth place with 17.5 points.

The UST juniors also showed the way in their division with 27.5 points by blanking NU, 4-0.

UE remained in second place with 23.5.

## SPORTSWATCH

### PUP keeps all-students tennis crown

POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines relied on Edilbert Anasta and Rocky Paglalunan to retain its men's team crown past De La Salle University, 2-1, in the 2004 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships over the weekend at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig. Paglalunan tripped Yannick Guba, 6-2, 6-4, to give PUP the first point before DLSU equalized with Guba and Nico Faller's 6-4, 6-1 doubles victory over Anasta and Ignacio Sabas. Anasta then clinched the trophy following a thrilling 6-1, 6-7, 6-4 win over Irwin De Guzman. La Salle Greenhills dethroned San Beda, 3-0, in the high school boys' division; while DLSU-A blanked sister team DLSU-B in the women's team event. Poveda squeaked past Assumption to bag the girls' team jewel in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by adidas and Prince/Nassau as the official tennis.

### NCAA-Nestlé cheerdance competition

NCAA Cheerleaders will get a chance to strut their stuff in a tournament atmosphere as the 1st NCAA-Nestlé Nonstop Cheerdance Competition gets underway at the Araneta Coliseum at 2 p.m. today. All eight NCAA member-schools are fielding teams in the event. During the drawing of lots last week, the order of performance will be: JRU Marshalls, San Beda Cheerleaders Association, Mapua Cheering Cardinals, CSB Green Jackets, San Sebastian Pep Squad, Letran Cheering Squad, PCU Pep Squad, and UPHDS Cheering Team. Only 20-30 performers and backup will be allowed on the floor to carry out a routine five to six minutes long. Three independent judges, representing three disciplines related to the art and science of cheering, will rate the teams based on this criteria: 55 points for cheer, 20 points for spirit, and 5 points for sportsmanship. Nestlé judges representing event sponsor Nestlé Nonstop Desire ice cream are allotted 20 points to assess a 60- to 90-second interpretation of a Nestlé cheer.

### Paet tops MCC unrated active chess

FIFTH-ranked Ferdinand Paet downed second seed Balden Corpuz in 50 moves of a Caro-Kann in the seventh and final round Sunday to claim via tie break the September edition of the MCC unrated active chess tournament at the J & F Divino Bldg. in Quezon City. Paet of Marikina City actually tied for first-second places with sixth seed Ryan Dungca. They both have six wins and one draw for 6.5 points after seven rounds of play. Paet, however, emerged with the better median tie break points. They shared the pooled P4,500 cash prizes. Tied in third-fourth places with 5.5 points each were Amir Zomer and 46 Nixon Camana. Adjudged top kiddie performers were MJ Turqueza and Franz Robert Grafil. Other top finishers were Corpuz (5th); Roland Pandela (6th); Silvestre Paragas Jr. (7th); Ernie Faeldonia (8th); Nash Ramos (9th) and Jose Garcia (10th).

### Ryder Cup matches on Channel 49

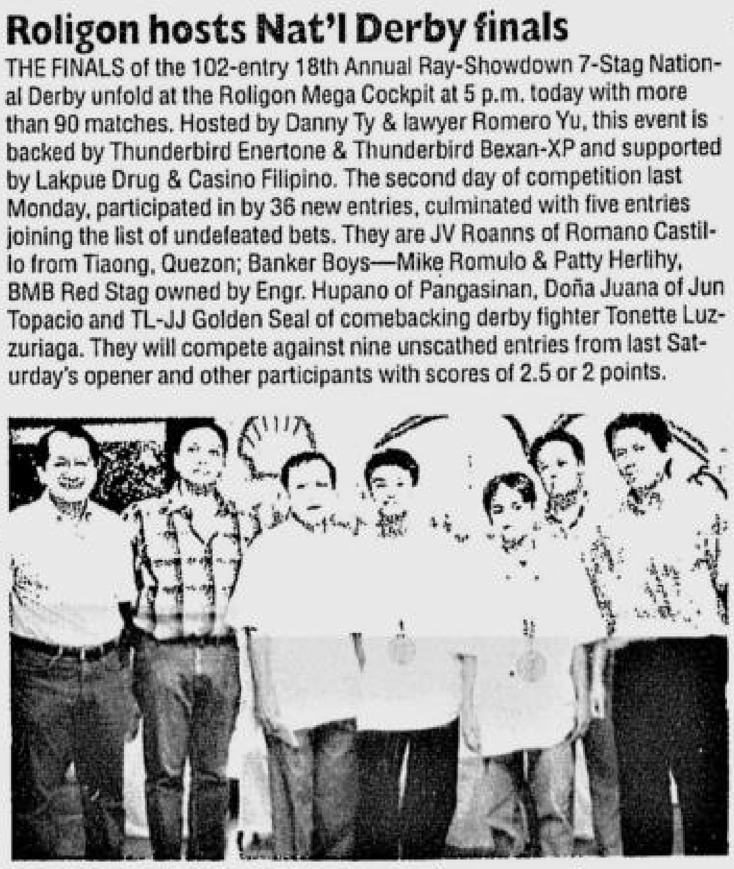
THE RYDER Cup matches will be staged on Sept. 17-19 at Oakland Hills, Bloomfield Township, Michigan. This big team event will be participated in by top players from the US headed by Hal Sutton and Bernhard Langer for Europe. It will be telecast live on Dream Golf Channel 49. Over the last 20 years and 10 competitions Europe has won five times, the United States four times and they have tied once.

### Stag wars rage at the Big Dome

SOME 43 entries of the country's best stagfighters were competing in 65 grueling fights at presstime at the Araneta Coliseum in the second leg of the National Cockers Association 7-Stag Derby series. The aftermath of the Aug. 31 and September derby saw Boy Jiao's Cutting Edge Binangonan Balbina BJ garner the solo championship with a 6 1/2 record. Jiao, who is also leading the Stagfighter of the Year race, will face fierce opposition from the touted entries of Biboy Enriquez, Peping Cojuangco, Ruel Ricafort, Jun Santiago, Rudy Salud, Ronnie Puno and Rudy Albano. Other entries also have another goal in mind, that is to qualify for the Grand National Championship 8-Stag Derby on Nov. 9, 11 and 13. The 2004 NCA 7-Stag derby series is presented by Univet Thunderbird feeds, the feeds for champions. The second leg of the 2004 NCA 7-Stag derby is hosted by Raymond Velayo and Biboy Enriquez. The second round will be held on Sept. 9. Succeeding 7-Stag derbies are scheduled on Sept. 14 and 16 hosted by Ruel Ricafort, Edgar Santos and Ronnie Puno; Oct. 5-7 hosted by Jun Santiago, Ito Ynares and Boy Jiao; Oct. 19 and 21 hosted by Boy Royo, Pol Estrellado and Gerry Boy Espina; and Oct. 26 and 28 hosted by Gerry Ramos, Alex Escalona, Patrick Puno, Pico Berin and Rudy Albano.

### Roligon hosts Nat'l Derby finals

THE FINALS of the 102-entry 18th Annual Ray-Showdown 7-Stag National Derby unfold at the Roligon Mega Cockpit at 5 p.m. today with more than 90 matches. Hosted by Danny Ty & lawyer Romero Yu, this event is backed by Thunderbird Enertone & Thunderbird Bexan-XP and supported by Lakpue Drug & Casino Filipino. The second day of competition last Monday, participated in by 36 new entries, culminated with five entries joining the list of undefeated bets. They are JV Roanns of Romano Castillo from Tiaong, Quezon; Banker Boys—Mike Romulo & Patty Herlihy, BMB Red Stag owned by Engr. Hupano of Pangasinan, Doña Juana of Jun Topacio and TL-JJ Golden Seal of comebacking derby fighter Tonette Luzzuriaga. They will compete against nine unscathed entries from last Saturday's opener and other participants with scores of 2.5 or 2 points.



**ACTIVE CHESS WINNERS:** The awarding ceremonies of the 2004 Shell National Youth Active Chess were held recently at Cyberzone, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. From left are Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell GM for External Affairs; Edgar Chua, Shell companies in the Phils. country chair; Rep. Matias Defensor, president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines; Juniors division champion Ivan Gil Biag, Kiddies division titlist Rodel Alsado, Pilipinas Shell VP for Corporate Affairs Romy de Guzman and Grandmaster Eugene Torre.

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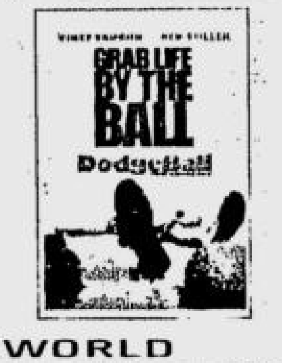
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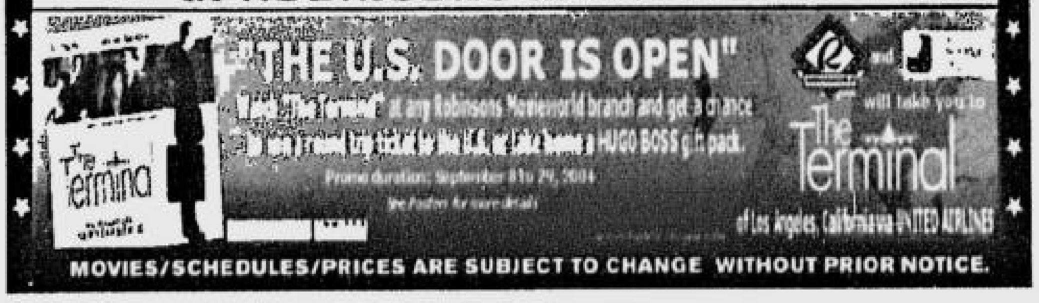
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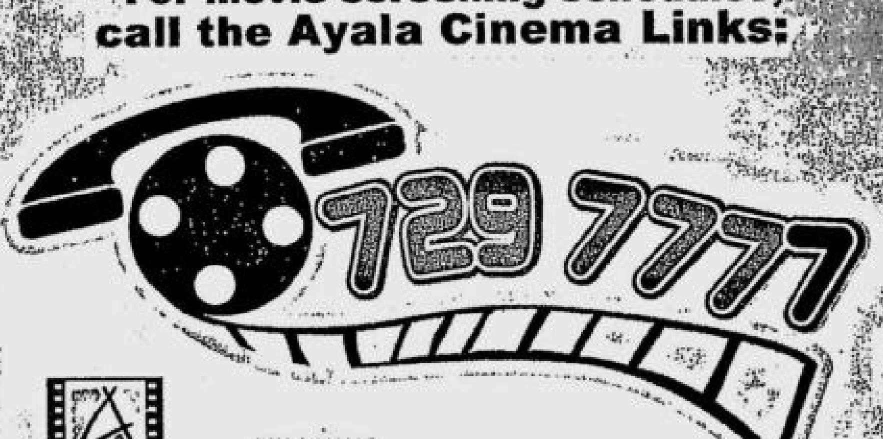

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# France loves Spielberg

PARIS—French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday decorated US filmmaker Stephen Spielberg with the Legion of Honor, the country's highest distinction, in a ceremony attended by a cluster of film stars.

"Our country loves cinema, all of cinema," said Chirac before honoring Spielberg. "It is the essence of our fight for cultural diversity... recognizing the equal dignity of all cultures."

Chirac cited Spielberg's film "Schindler's List," which he described as one of his personal favorites. "In this difficult period where intolerance, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and fanaticism are again manifesting themselves, it is essential for cinema (...) to help us recall the horror of the unspeakable," he said.

In his response, Spielberg, who had arrived from the northern town of Deauville where he is attending the 30th annual American Film Festival, warned that hatred was a global threat more dangerous than either AIDS or cancer.

"We live in a world right now which is not recognizable from what I experienced growing up in the 1950s and 1960s," he told Chirac.

"I commend your efforts in what you are doing about anti-Semitism here in France... We have to work very, very hard to make people understand that it is the differences we have to celebrate and not condemn.

"Sometimes the minorities have the most to contribute to a society," the Jewish director added.

Spielberg also paid tribute to legendary French film director Francois Truffaut, who died 20 years ago and who had starred in Spielberg's 1977 classic, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Attending the ceremony at the Elysee presidential palace were such French and American film personalities as Gwyneth Paltrow, Sophie Marceau, Nathalie Baye and Patrick Bruel.

The National Order of the Legion of Honor was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte and recognizes eminent service to the Republic of France. *AFP*

# 21 films vie for Golden Lion

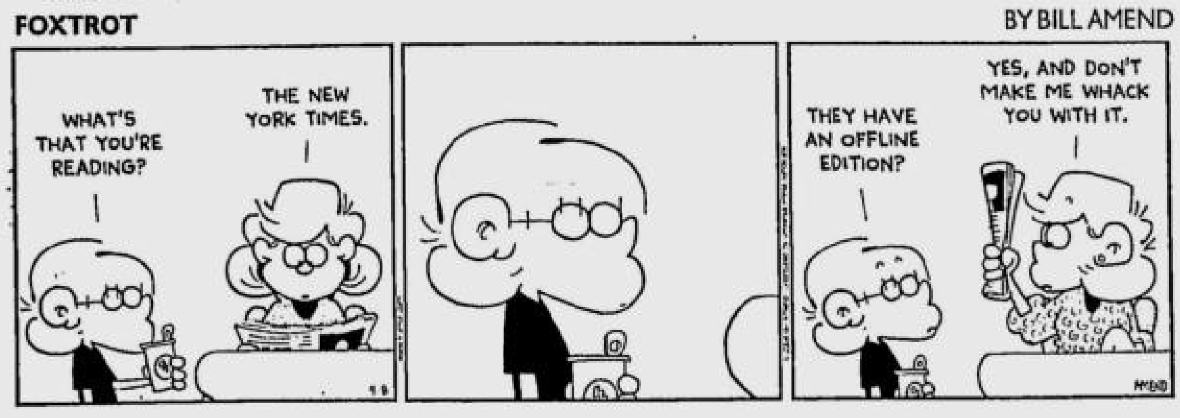
VENICE, Italy—A total of 21 pictures are fighting it out for the Golden Lion during the 11-day Venice Film Festival.

Among these are three from the United States: "Vanity Fair," based on the William Makepeace Thackeray novel, directed by the Indian-born Mira Nair, and starring Reese Witherspoon with a dead-

21 FILMS/ A31

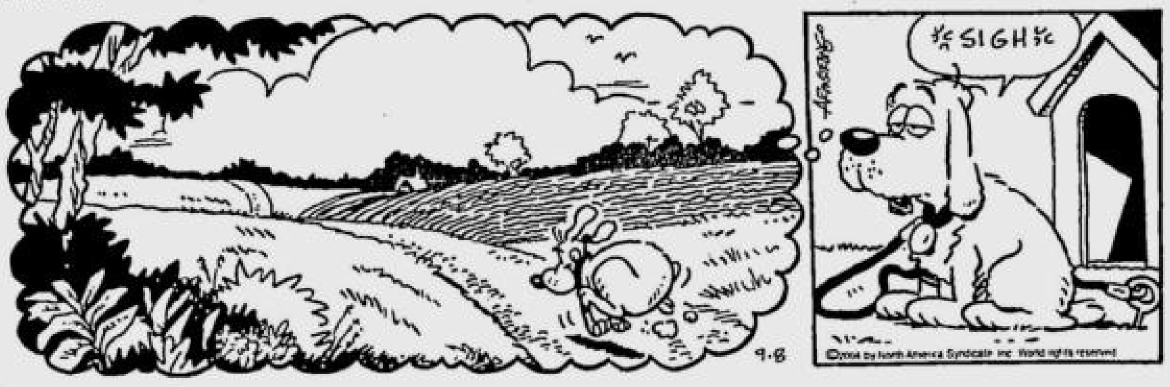
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE READING?
THE NEW YORK TIMES.
THEY HAVE AN OFFLINE EDITION?
YES, AND DON'T MAKE ME WHACK YOU WITH IT.

### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


*SIGH*
9-8
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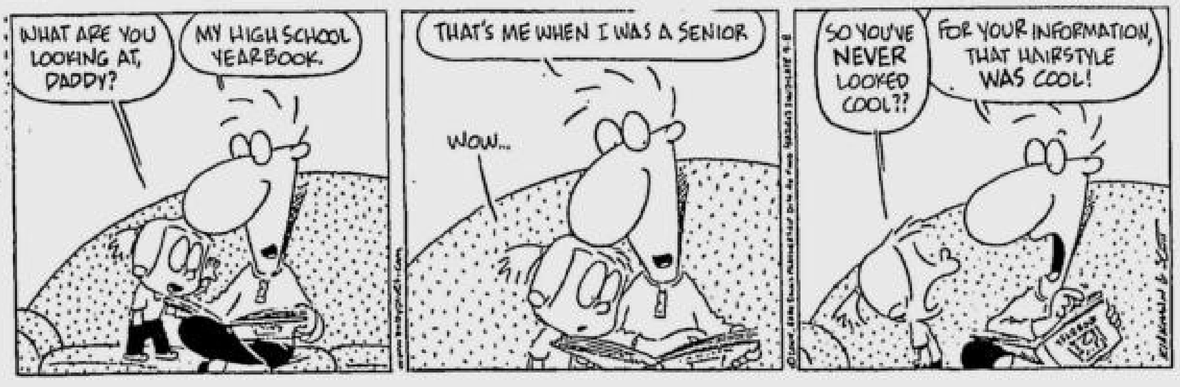
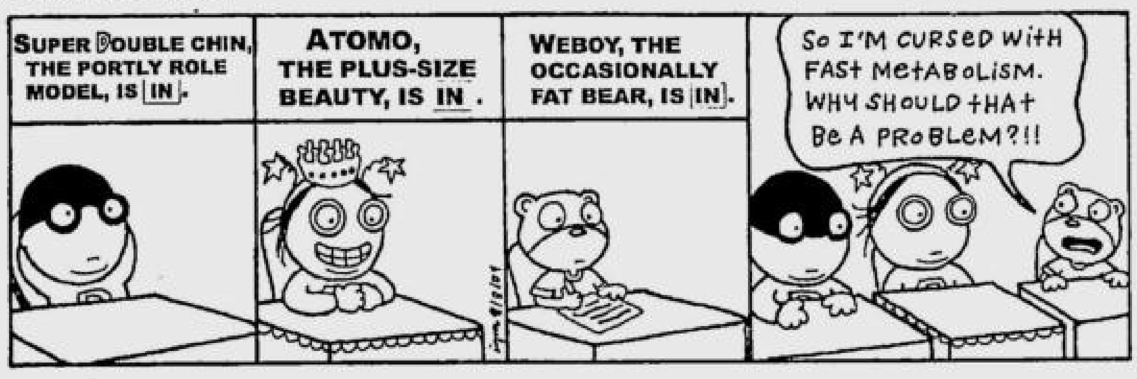
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, DADDY?
MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK.
THAT'S ME WHEN I WAS A SENIOR.
WOW...
SO YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED COOL??
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THAT HAIRSTYLE WAS COOL!

### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SUPER DOUBLE CHIN, THE PORTLY ROLE MODEL, IS IN.
ATOMO, THE PLUS-SIZE BEAUTY, IS IN.
WEBOY, THE OCCASIONALLY FAT BEAR, IS IN.
So I'M CURSED WITH FAST METABOLISM. WHY SHOULD THAT BE A PROBLEM?!!

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You are quite complex. But one thing is certain: You want to create order in your universe and improve the situation around you. You're dynamic and an excellent performer (at any task). You have very set ideas about what you want to achieve. The year ahead holds changes, perhaps as significant as those that took place in 1995.
**Birthdate of:** Sid Caesar, actor/comedian; David Arquette, actor; Patsy Cline, singer.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Female relatives (perhaps a parental figure) are important to you today. Be open to listening to someone who needs to have a heart-to-heart talk with you.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** This is a good day for shopping and making deals. You're open to unusual ideas. Something unique—even bizarre—catches your attention because you feel broad-minded.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** This is a good day to take care of finances. Pay some bills and get on top of your scene. Find out how much money you don't have.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** The Moon is in your sign today, and this makes you a bit more emotional to everything around you. Don't worry: This is allowed. There's nothing wrong with your feelings.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Venus in your sign makes you unusually social and diplomatic right now. However, today's Moon urges you to seek more solitude and privacy—just for today. (We all have our contradictions.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** A female friend has something important to tell you. In turn, you might feel the need to confide in this person as well. Trust your instincts.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** People notice you today. You might have a reaction to a female boss or female parental figure. Just remember that all eyes are on you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You have a strong desire to travel for pleasure now. Accept any opportunities that come your way. You'll learn something new and interesting today.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Your ambition is aroused! You're trying to do so much right now. Set aside some time today to look at bills, debt, credit and property you share with others.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Today's Moon opposes your sign. This calls attention to all your closest relationships. It certainly means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others.

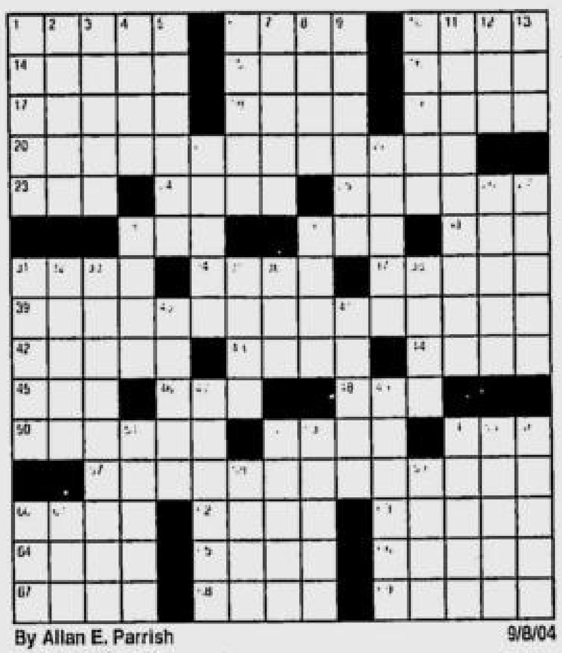
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** You might be able to get better organized today if you pick three things you really want to get done. Focus on those first. You'll feel satisfied when these tasks are finished.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Today is a lighthearted, playful time to enjoy activities with children. It's also a great day for the arts and all creative ventures. Enjoy!

## DAILY CROSSWORD

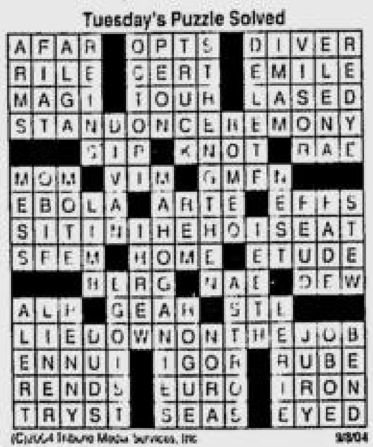
**ACROSS**
1 Rascal
6 Young men
10 Haberdashery or boutique
14 German gun
15 Polish text
16 Amazes
17 Fight site
18 Put on
19 Bee of Mayberry
20 Co-star of 39A
23 Krazy __
24 Facilitate
25 Leaflets
28 Mork's planet
29 Can. province
30 Hee follower
31 Let's go!
34 Jacob's twin
37 Flora and fauna
39 Classic TV sitcom
42 Amtrak's express train
43 Radar's favorite drink
44 Track figures
45 Basic education trio
46 Large vessel
48 Writer Follett
50 Ritually pure, in Judaism
52 At any time
54 CIA adversary, once
57 Co-star of 39A
60 High spot
62 Comment from a klutz
63 Hawk's home
64 Ancient Greek weight
65 Pear-shaped instrument
66 One-for-one deal
67 Melville's Billy
68 Prohibitionists
69 Divided into sectors

**DOWN**
1 Loose
2 Roman senate
3 Emissary
4 Repair
5 Supplication
6 John L. or Jerry Lee
7 Fred Astaire's sister
8 Use a rotary phone
9 Vigorous conflict
10 Madras mystic
11 Domestic unit
12 Possess
13 Winter hours in L.A.
21 Respond to an alarm
22 Suspect story
26 Evaluated
27 Influences
28 "The __ lama he's a priest..."
29 Blackjack tie
31 Dick or Petula
32 Intro to economics?
33 Bust the budget
35 E-mailed
36 "Biography" channel
38 Wrinkle remover
40 Baltimore gridder
41 Rambler
47 Infamous Benedict
49 Bad imitation
51 Group of six
52 Clear out
53 Flower holders
54 Designer Donna
55 Move smoothly
56 Remove air from pipes
58 Part of BYOB
59 Grinder
60 Emb. leader
61 More, musically



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
9/8/04

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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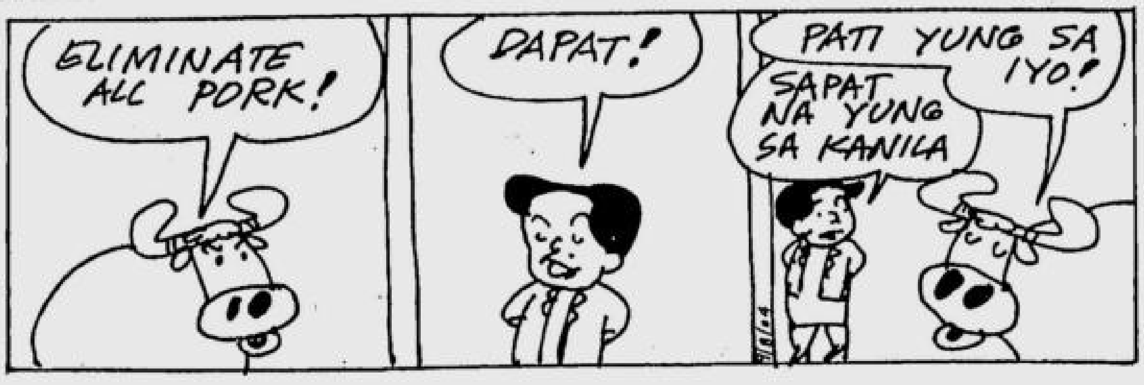
9/8/04

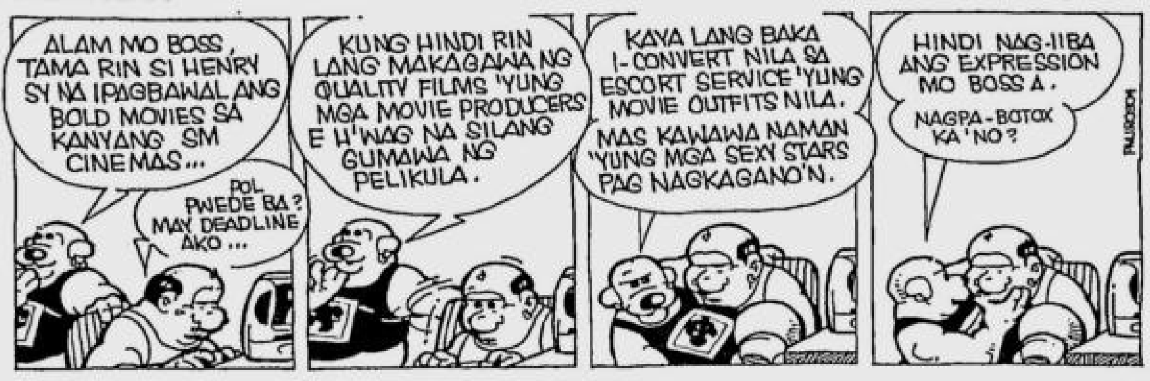
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ELIMINATE ALL PORK!
DAPAT!
PATI YUNG SA IYO!
SAPAT NA YUNG SA KANILA

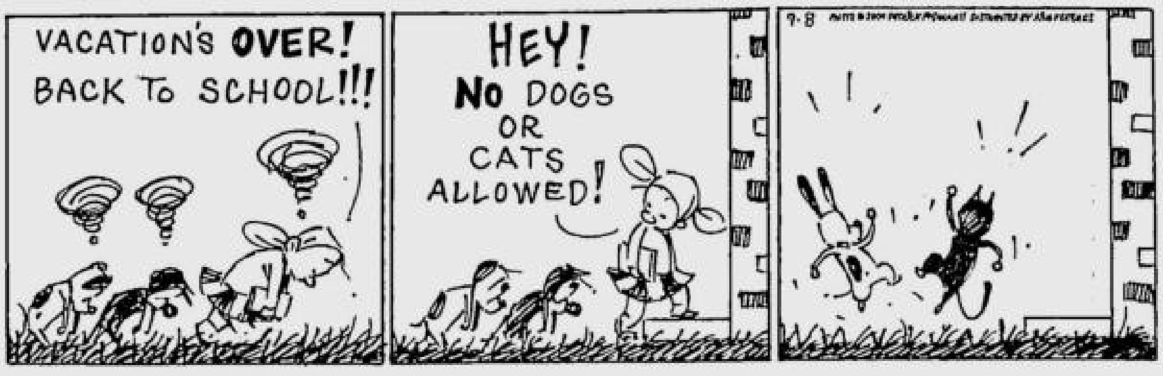
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BOSS, TAMA RIN SI HENRY SY NA IPAGBAWAL ANG BOLD MOVIES SA KANYANG SM CINEMAS...
POL, PWEDE BA? MAY DEADLINE AKO...
KUNG HINDI RIN LANG MAKAGAWA NG QUALITY FILMS 'YUNG MGA MOVIE PRODUCERS E H'WAG NA SILANG GUMAWA NG PELIKULA.
KAYA LANG BAKA I-CONVERT NILA SA ESCORT SERVICE 'YUNG MOVIE OUTFITS NILA.
MAS KAWAWA NAMAN 'YUNG MGA SEXY STARS PAG NAGKAGANO'N.
HINDI NAG-IIBA ANG EXPRESSION MO BOSS A.
NAGPA-BOTOX KA 'NO?

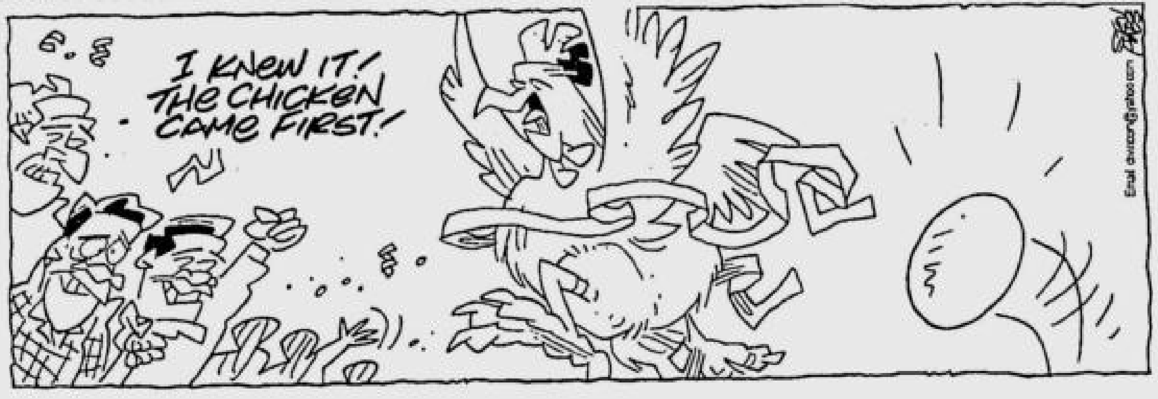
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


VACATION'S OVER! BACK TO SCHOOL!!!
HEY! NO DOGS OR CATS ALLOWED!
9-8

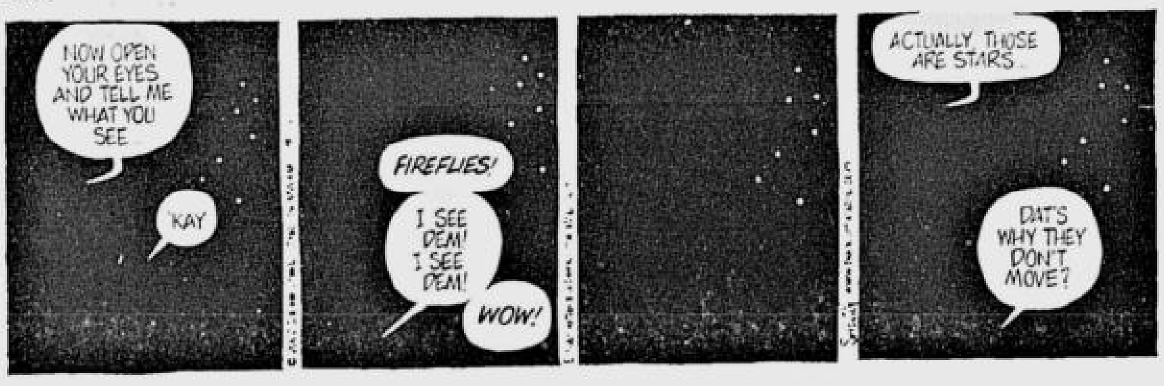
### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I KNEW IT! THE CHICKEN CAME FIRST!

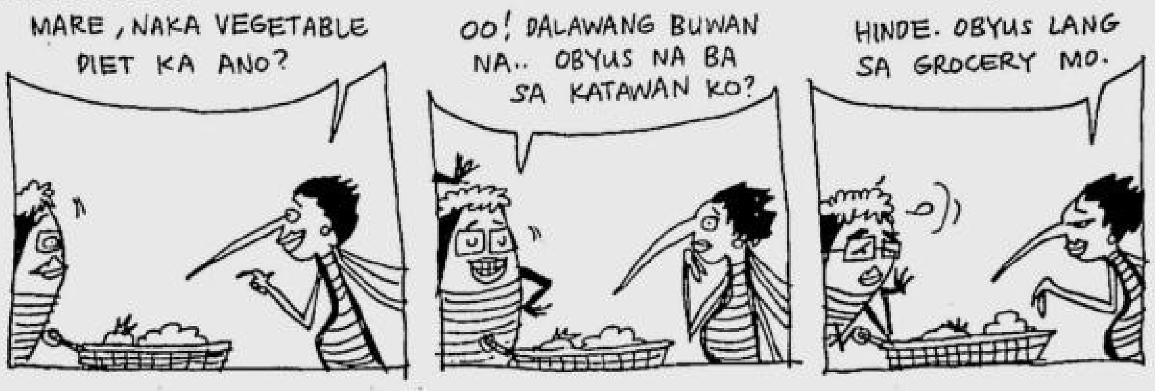
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NOW OPEN YOUR EYES AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.
'KAY
FIREFLIES!
I SEE DEM! I SEE DEM!
WOW!
ACTUALLY, THOSE ARE STARS.
DAT'S WHY THEY DON'T MOVE?

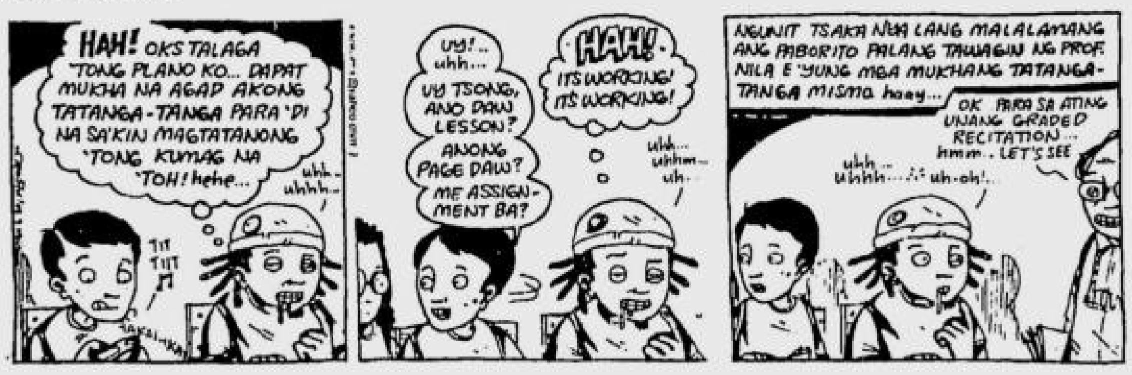
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARE, NAKA VEGETABLE DIET KA ANO?
OO! DALAWANG BUWAN NA.. OBYUS NA BA SA KATAWAN KO?
HINDE. OBYUS LANG SA GROCERY MO.

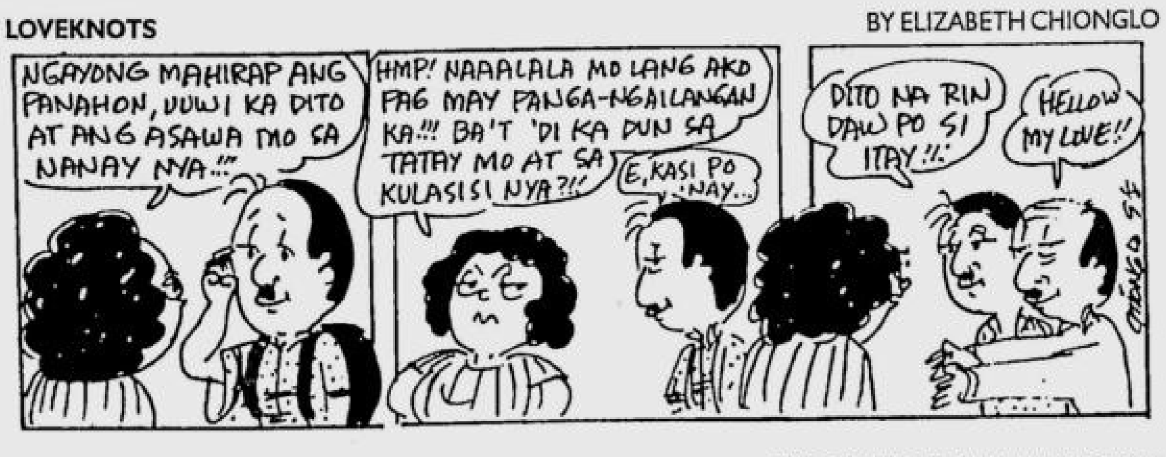
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! OKS TALAGA 'TONG PLANO KO... DAPAT MUKHA NA AGAD AKONG TATANGA-TANGA PARA 'DI NA SA'KIN MAGTATANONG 'TONG KUMAG NA 'TOH! hehe...
uhh... uhhh...
UY!.. uhh...
UY TSONG, ANO DAW LESSON?
ANONG PAGE DAW?
ME ASSIGNMENT BA?
HAH! ITS WORKING! ITS WORKING!
uhh... uhhm... uh..
NGUNIT TSAKA NYA LANG MALALAMANG ANG PABORITO PALANG TAWAGIN NG PROF. NILA E 'YUNG MGA MUKHANG TATANGA-TANGA MISMO haay...
OK. PARA SA ATING UNANG GRADED RECITATION... hmm.. LET'S SEE
uhh... uhhh... uh-oh!..

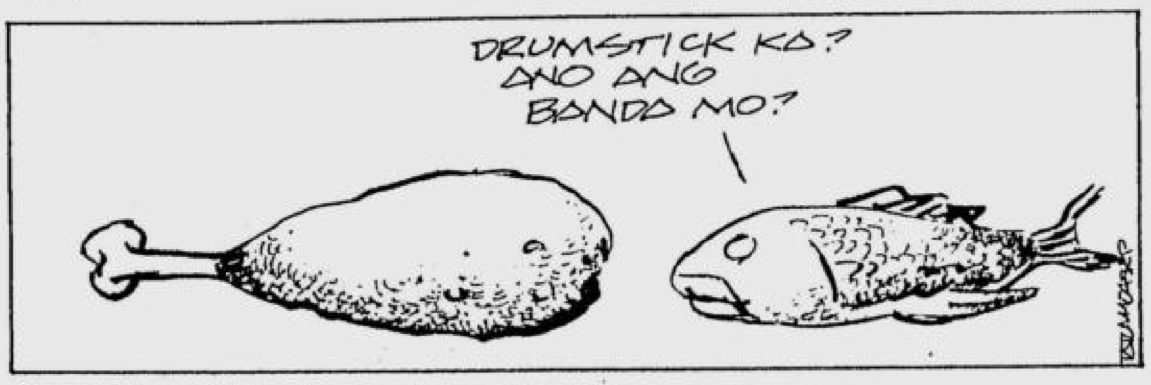
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NGAYONG MAHIRAP ANG PANAHON, UUWI KA DITO AT ANG ASAWA MO SA NANAY NYA..!!
HMP! NAAALALA MO LANG AKO PAG MAY PANGA-NGAILANGAN KA..!!! BA'T 'DI KA DUN SA TATAY MO AT SA KULASISI NYA?!
E, KASI PO 'NAY...
DITO NA RIN DAW PO SI ITAY..!!
HELLOW MY LOVE!!

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DRUMSTICK KA? ANO ANG BANDA MO?

# 21 films vie for Golden Lion

From page A29

on British accent; "Birth" by Jonathan Glazer; and "Palindromes" by Todd Solondz.

Other contenders are hometown favorite "Ovunque Sei" ("Wherever You Are") by Italian Michele Placido; "Shijie" ("The World") by China's Jia Zhangke; and animated feature "Hauro No Ugoku Shiro" ("Howl's Moving Castle") by Japan's Hayo Miyazaki.

The jury is headed by British director John Boorman and also includes actresses Scarlett Johansson and Helen Mirren. *AP*

## SHOW TIME

# Ai Ai, Boy in riotous interview

SHE is the comedy concert queen. She is also the box-office queen and her hit movie, "Tanging Ina," has not been topped at the box office. But Ai Ai de las Alas' favorite title is "Tanging Ina" because it speaks of her true calling—mother to three children. Ai Ai is a solo parent who will do everything for her children.

Ai Ai is also a recording artist. She recently recorded a new album, "Tanging Ina Nyo," which contains "Tanging Ina," "Tongtwayla," "Volta, Dancephabet," "Si Manloloko," among others.

Boy Abunda talks to Ai Ai in one of her most hilarious interviews, on "Private Conversations" at 9 p.m. today on ANC News Channel.

"Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" is directed by Carrie Jose.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| MANILA | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | TAG-INIT |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | HAMOG |
| B | CLOSED |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4 | THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL |
| PREMIERE THEATRE | ANACONDAS |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | NOW THAT I HAVE YOU |
| CINEMA-2 | HAMOG |
| CINEMA-3 | THE VILLAGE |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | ANACONDAS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | SUGAT (RE-ISSUE) |
| CINEMA-6 | BANGKOK HAUNTED 2 |
| CINEMA-7 | LAWS OF ATTRACTION |
| CINEMA-8 | THUNDERBIRDS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | ANACONDAS |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | ANACONDAS |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | PRINCESS DIARIES 2 |
| CINEMA-12 | THE NOTEBOOK |
| CINEMA-14 | JANDARA |
| CINEMA-15 | ALIEN VS PREDATOR |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | ALIEN VS. PREDATOR |
| CINEMA-1 | NOW THAT I HAVE YOU |
| CINEMA-2 | GARFIELD |
| CINEMA-4 | VILLAGE |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

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CINEMA 1: THE TERMINAL
10:50, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
GP
CINEMA 2: DODGEBALL
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
PG13
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

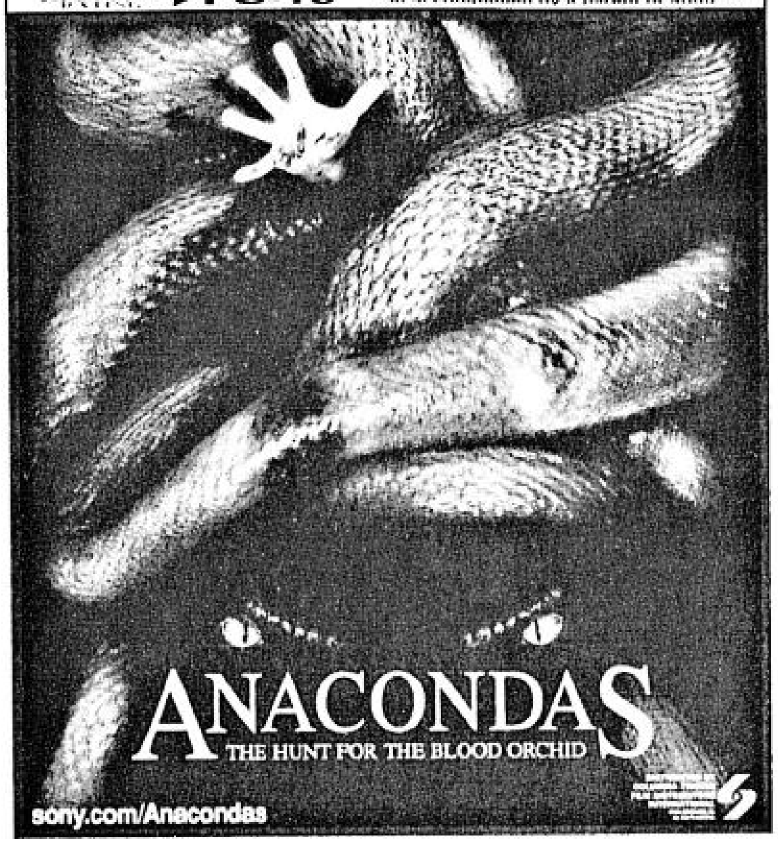
1 THE NOTEBOOK
11:40, 2:25, 5:10
7:55, 10:40
PG 13

2 DODGEBALL
10:40, 12:55, 3:10
5:25, 7:40, 10:20
PG 13

3 THE TERMINAL
11:10, 1:50, 4:30
7:10, 10:20
GP

4 ANACONDAS
11:05, 1:20, 3:35
5:50, 8:05, 10:20
PG 13

Warning: Hungry 50-Foot Snakes on the Loose!
2ND ANACONDAS ATTACK WEEK!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13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Claudia Puig, USA TODAY
jennifer garner
13 going on 30

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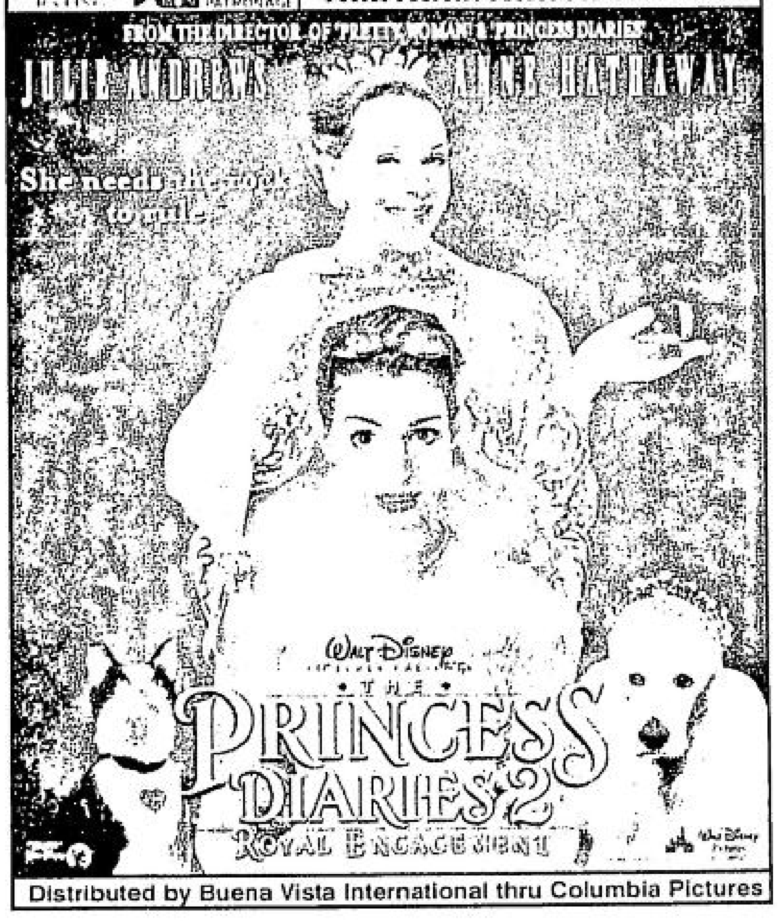
nia vardalos
toni collette
Featuring our own Alec Mapa
When you follow your dream, there's no telling what you'll become.
GIRLS WILL BE BOYS WILL BE GIRLS
CONNIE and CARLA

THIRD WEEK!
MTRCB ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED


FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'PRETTY WOMAN' & 'PRINCESS DIARIES'
JULIE ANDREWS
ANNE HATHAWAY
She needs a king to rule.
Walt Disney
THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ANACONDAS<br>PG13<br>12:50,3:05,5:20,7:35,9:50 | DODGEBALL<br>PG13<br>1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05 | THE NOTEBOOK<br>PG-13<br>12:00,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10 |
| GOD SEND<br>PG13 | CONNIE AND CARLA<br>PG13<br>1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40 | TERMINAL<br>GP<br>12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30 |

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Anacondas
God Send

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Young Virgins
Tag-Init
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God Send
Anacondas
Dodgeball

starmall LAS PINAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
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Thunder Birds

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1 THE NOTEBOOK
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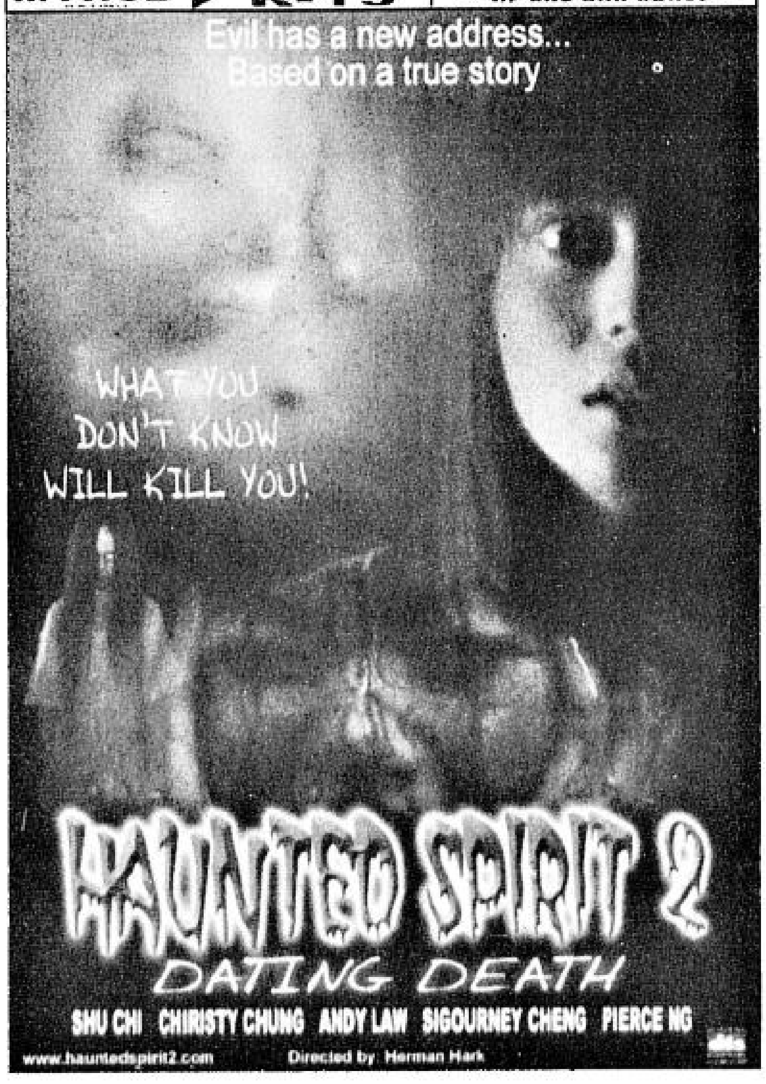
LMF: 8:55PM
MTRCB Rating: (PG - 13)
2 THE TERMINAL
FS: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM
LMF: 9:40PM
MTRCB Rating: (GP)
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM
LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating: (GP)
4 DODGEBALL
FS: 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM
LMF: 9:10PM
MTRCB Rating: (PG - 13)
PREMIERE THEATRE ANACONDAS
FS: 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating: (PG - 13)
For show information please call 633 2227 / 633 7851 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB ▶ R-13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www.hauntedspirit2.com
Directed by: Herman Hark

OPENS SEPTEMBER 15!
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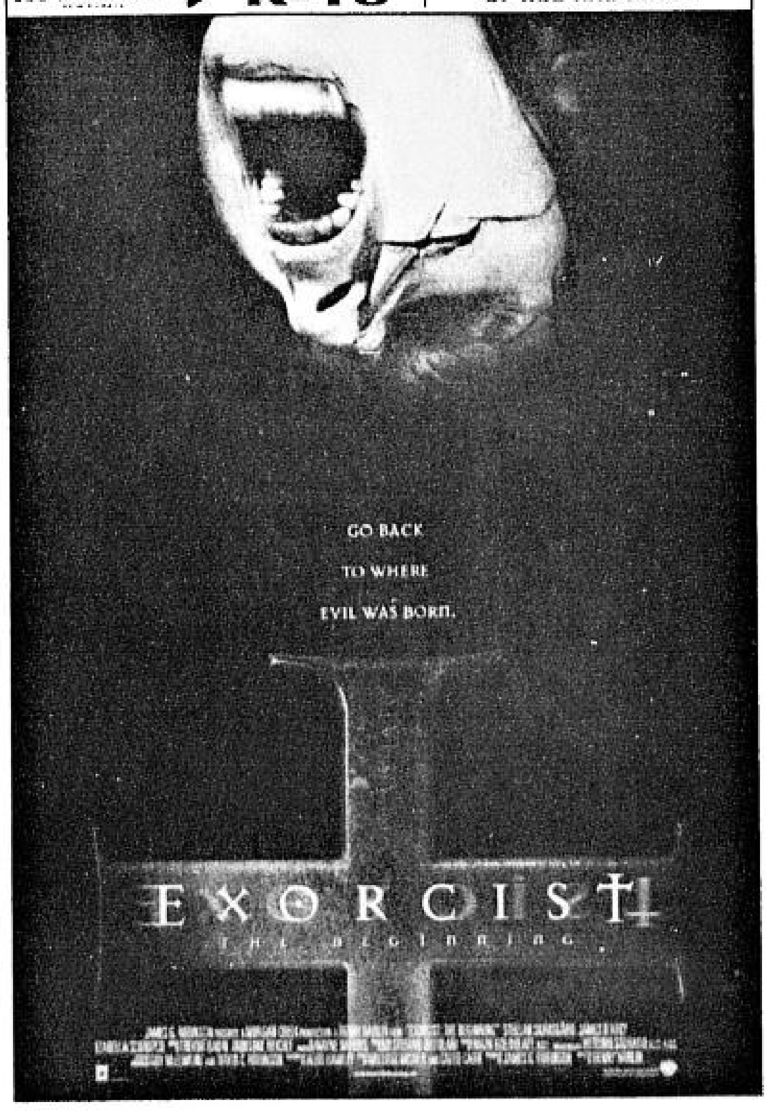
GO BACK
TO WHERE
EVIL WAS BORN.
EXORCIST
THE BEGINNING

all i want is in
MYGLOBE
exclusive
American Idol

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**TONES**

| SONG TITLE | ARTIST | KEYWORD |
|---|---|---|
| It's A Miracle | Barry Manilow | itsamiracle |
| Get On Your Feet | Gloria Estefan | getonurfeet |
| For Once In My Life | Spiral Staircase | foronce |
| All By Myself | Celine Dion | bymyself |
| Greatest Love Of All | Whitney Houston | greatestlove |
| I Can Love You Like That | All4One | icanlove |
| Lean On Me | Club Noveau | leanonme |
| Rhythm is Gonna Get You | Gloria Estefan | rhythm |
| One Last Cry | Brian McKnight | onelastcry |
| A Whole New World | Peabo Bryson & Celine Dion | newworld |
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| John S: My Girl | IA223 |
| La Toya: Rhythm Is Gonna Get You | IA224 |

| TITLE | KEYWORD |
|---|---|
| All By Myself Audition | IA169 |
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| No no no! | IA178 |
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| Staff Sgt Paul Hong | IA181 |

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# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
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# Record, film execs suspected of working with pirates

A RECORD executive and a movie producer are among the prominent figures suspected of dealing with a producer of pirated video and audio products.

This was discovered during a raid on a Malabon plant by the Optical Media Board (OMB) and members of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. The plant, registered to Chona Crisostomo Xiao, was raided last month for producing pirated products.

But lawyer Marivic Benedicto, OMB executive director, said "it would be premature and irresponsible for this office to make conclusions on the involvement of these individuals (record executive and movie producer)."

She added that "should the investigation show that these individuals are indeed involved in the operation of the facility, the Optical Media Board will not hesitate to prosecute them to the full extent of the law."

The plant in Potrero, Malabon, was found producing fake products on two replicating machines worth about P50 million. The raiders seized the machines.

The raid was part of on-going surprise inspections by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry's licensed replicating plants.

OMB Chair Edu Manzano has been conducting an average of two raids daily on illegal music and video production plants.

The campaign of Chair Edu against video piracy has the support of President Macapagal-Arroyo "100 percent," said an OMB statement, because "the President knows only too well that a lot is at stake in the fight and the government cannot afford to let its guard down."

Thousand of bootleg film and music DVDs, VCDs and CDs are smuggled into the country each year and sold at three-fourths their original cost. The fakers deprive legitimate film distributors and music producers of millions of pesos in revenues.

CLOSE WATCH. Chair Edu inspects fake disc.

Recently, Chair Edu and his team made a surprise sweep of several malls in Metro Manila, confiscating more than 20,000 discs at the Tutuban Center Mall, and more than 10,000 discs at the Divisoria Mall, both in Divisoria, Manila.

OMB teams in Angeles City seized more than 21,000 discs, including pornographic ones, sold openly in the streets, some within a few meters away from a police station.

Raids on the Royal Family Mall in Valenzuela, the Modalities Market, Muñoz Market and other areas yielded similar results.

Manzano said the raids barely scratched the surface, and it would take much more to drive the pirates out of business. The anti-piracy campaign must be expanded to the provinces, he said. *(See related story below.)*

The OMB pointed out that it's already September but not more than 25 new Filipino films have been shown. The movie community is worried that next year, the industry might produce only 10 local films as a result of piracy, said the OMB chair, who is also a movie actor and TV host. *With a report from Nini Valera*

# 'Our mission is only to confiscate'

**By Alex Pal**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Members of the Optical Media Board (OMB), formerly the Videogram Regulatory Board, Friday raided stores selling pirated VCDs and DVDs in this Negros Oriental city, confiscating some 300,000 CDs valued at about P2.5 million.

OMB Executive Director Marivic Benedicto and acting intelligence and inspection division chief Dante Malbas led the raiders. They were backed by members of the Dumaguete police as well as civilian assets of the police and other military and intelligence units in Negros Oriental.

Dumaguete City Mayor Agustin Perdices and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz also showed up to show their support for the antipiracy drive.

Perdices said it was not the first time they confiscated not just pirated CDs but also pornographic material from the same vendors in the Muslim Barter Trade area.

"We're looking at two offenses—selling pirated materials and selling pornographic items," Perdices said.

However, the team did not make any arrests, only confiscating the CDs and later having them crushed by a road roller and a payloader.

"Our mission is just to confiscate these items," explained Benedicto. "If we make arrests, it would mean we will have to file cases and we cannot keep on coming back here for that."

Malbas promised the antipiracy drive of the OMB would continue without letup. "We know the modus operandi of these vendors," he said. "The moment we leave, they'll go back to business. But we'll come back in a few days and raid them again.

Malbas said their haul in Dumaguete alone was by far the biggest haul in the region, even compared to their recent raids in Cebu City.

IT'S THE TALK-OF-THE-TOWN!
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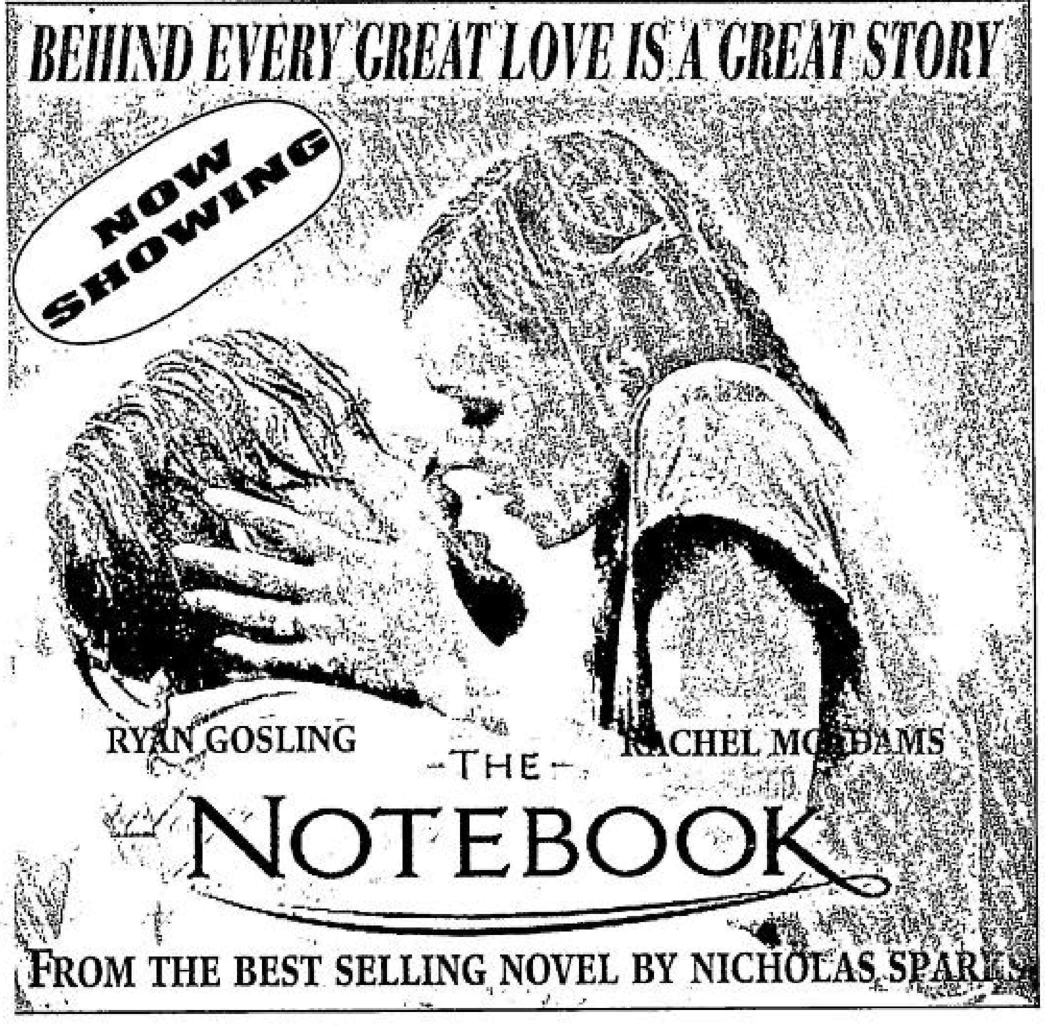
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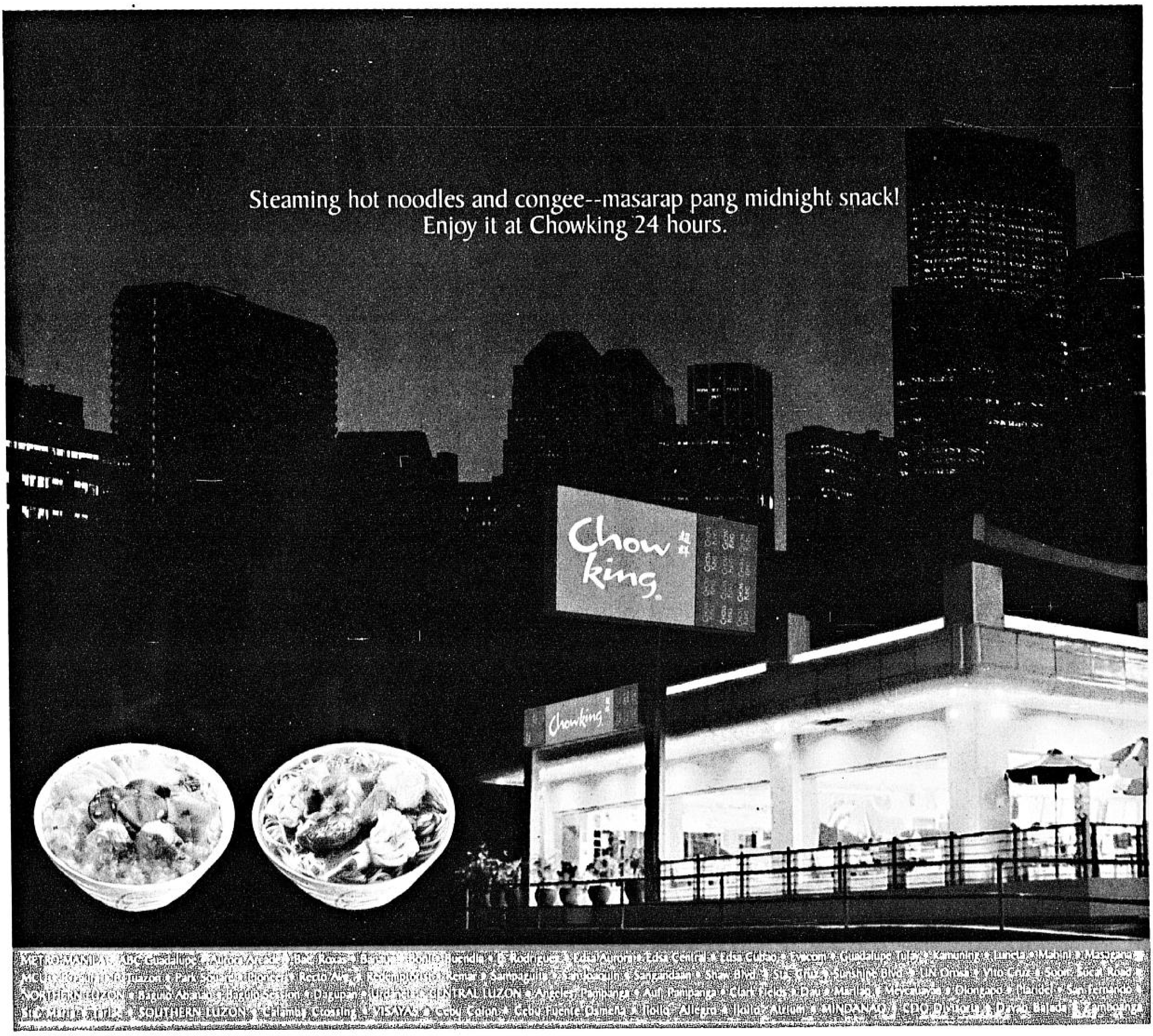
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# Faintings, huttles and buttles...

From page A2-4

Co-host: *Siyempre, marami. Magbibigay din tayo ng mga* faintings!

(Fa-fa-foom!)

* * *

Host: What can we do to help our local movies recover from their slump this year?

Guest: We can do many—*halimbawa, huwag tangkilikin ang mga nagtitinda ng pirata.*

(*Ano raw?*)

* * *

Host: There are so many talks that your boyfriend has broken up with you. What's the truth, coming from you?

Guest: I don't know to him. What he decides, anyway, it's his lost not mine.

(*Ay*, it's his lost!)

* * *

Host: Do you have a show coming up?

Guest: Yes, please watch my show on October Then.

(October Then? Oh, October 10! Thige, we'll watch.)

* * *

Host: There are so many robberies now. What are you doing to protect your own establishment?

Guest: We have already put it up, but we cannot announce what our precautions.

(*Sige na nga.*)

* * *

Host: Why do you like going to the spa?

Guest: Because it's great for getting away from the huttles and buttles of life!

(*Ay*, huttles and buttles!)

## 'Rivals'

THE LIVES of the rich and famous have always captured the public's imagination—and, when they are in conflict with each other, they're even more compelling. Starting Sept. 13, the Discovery Channel mines this rich lode with "Rivals," a series that reveals the inside story of some of the most famous rivalries from the worlds of sports, music, cinema, royalty and fashion.

From 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Sept. 13, "Rivals" begins with the world's most infamous modern love triangle, involving Prince Charles, Princess Diana and Camilla Parker Bowles, a complex conflict that resulted in bitterness, jealousy and divorce.

Other forthcoming episodes are on Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Lennon and Paul McCartney, and Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy.

## 'Growing Up Grizzly 2'

JENNIFER Aniston stars in "Growing Up Grizzly 2," a one-hour Animal Planet special that brings viewers up-to-date with orphaned grizzly bears Bart and Honey-Bump, premiering at 10 p.m. on Sept. 20. The cubs were first introduced by Brad Pitt in "Growing Up Grizzly."

The sequel takes viewers to the set of Bart's big movie debut, follows wild grizzly bears on a hunt for salmon in Canada, and enlightens viewers about the need to preserve the grizzly habitat and to protect all wildlife.

---

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6 CINE EUROPA
7 ANACONDAS
8 THE NOTEBOOK
9 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
10 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11 LAWS OF ATTRCTION
12 COLLATERAL

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
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1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ANACONDAS
5 GODSEND
6 CONNIE AND CARLA
7 DODGEBALL
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 THE TERMINAL
10 THE NOTEBOOK
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 TOOLBOX MURDERS

**SM CITY MANILA**
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12 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

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7 ANACONDAS
8 GODSEND

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5 THE TERMINAL
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 DODGEBALL
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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1 ANACONDAS
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3 THE TERMINAL
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### North

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1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 THE ALAMO
4 ANACONDAS

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
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2 CONNIE AND CARLA
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS

**SM CITY BAGUIO**
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1 ANACONDAS
2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 THE TERMINAL
4 THUNDERBIRDS

### South

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1 DODGEBALL
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3 ANACONDAS
4 THE TERMINAL
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 TOOLBOX MURDERS
8 GODSEND
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2

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2 THE TERMINAL
3 DODGEBALL
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3 ANACONDAS
4 GODSEND

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3 ANACONDAS
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5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7 THE NOTEBOOK
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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2 THE TERMINAL
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4 ANACONDAS

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5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 ANACONDAS

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2 RESERVED
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 THE NOTEBOOK
5 STEPFORD WIVES
6 CINDERELLA STORY
7 RESERVED
8 SUPER SIZE ME

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2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
3 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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1
THE TERMINAL
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:50/5:30/8:10/10:30 LFS/10:50 LMF/1:00 END

2
DODGEBALL
11:25 FS/11:55 MF/2:05/4:15/6:25/8:35 LFS/10:15 LMF/10:45 END

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2 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL GP
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP
4 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL PG-13

**PREMIERE**

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1 (SDDS) ANACONDAS
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 GOLD (DTS) THE NOTEBOOK
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 GOLD (SDDS) 13 GOING 30 (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
8 [illegible] NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 [illegible] CONNIE & CARLA
10 [illegible] LAWS OF ATTRACTION

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
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1 (DOLBY) 13 GOING 30 (SNEAK PREVIEW)
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3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK

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**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
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1 HAMOG
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 (DTS) ANACONDAS

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
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1 13 GOING 30 (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

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1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

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1 ELLA ENCHANTED
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5. HAMOG

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2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 SUGAT
4 (SDDS) HAMOG
5 THUNDERBIRDS
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7 (DTS) ANACONDAS
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

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7 (Dolby) 13 GOING ON 30

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2 ANACONDAS
3 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

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3 CARMEN
4 RESERVED

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2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
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5 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

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4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
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2 SOON TO OPEN
3 (DTS EX) SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

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2 ANACONDAS
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) ALONG CAME POLLY

**Cine Nepo**
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1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 THE VILLAGE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

**Centre Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 GARFIELD
2 THE VILLAGE

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) WILD BUTTERFLY
2 HAMOG
3 COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

**Lianas MovieCity**
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1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 HAMOG
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4
5 13 GOING 30 (SNEAK PREVIEW)

**Mega Center Mall**
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1 HAMOG
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DEATH CURSE
2 THUNDERBIRD
3 KARELASYON
4 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

**Berma Cinema**
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2 SUGAT

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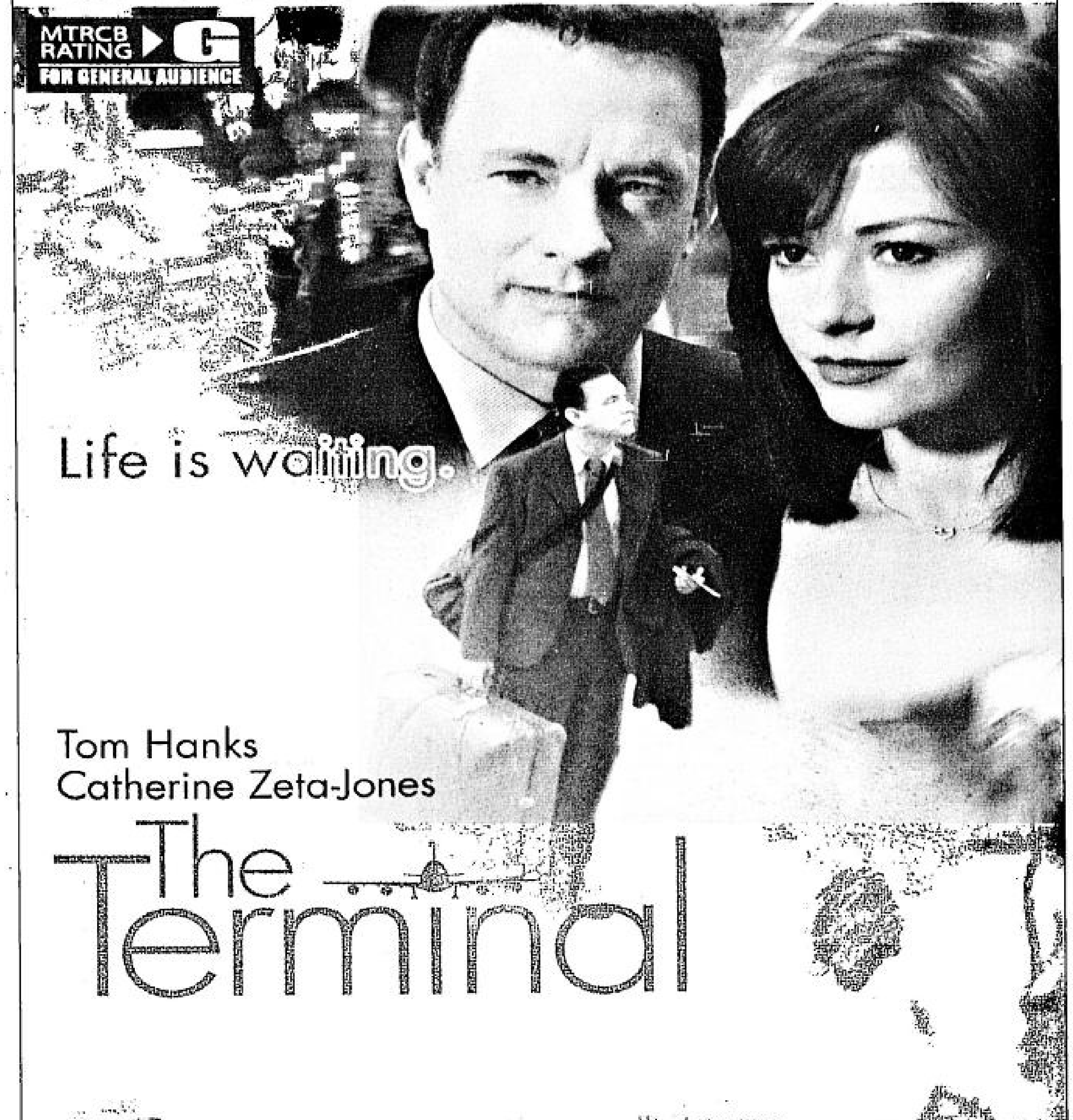
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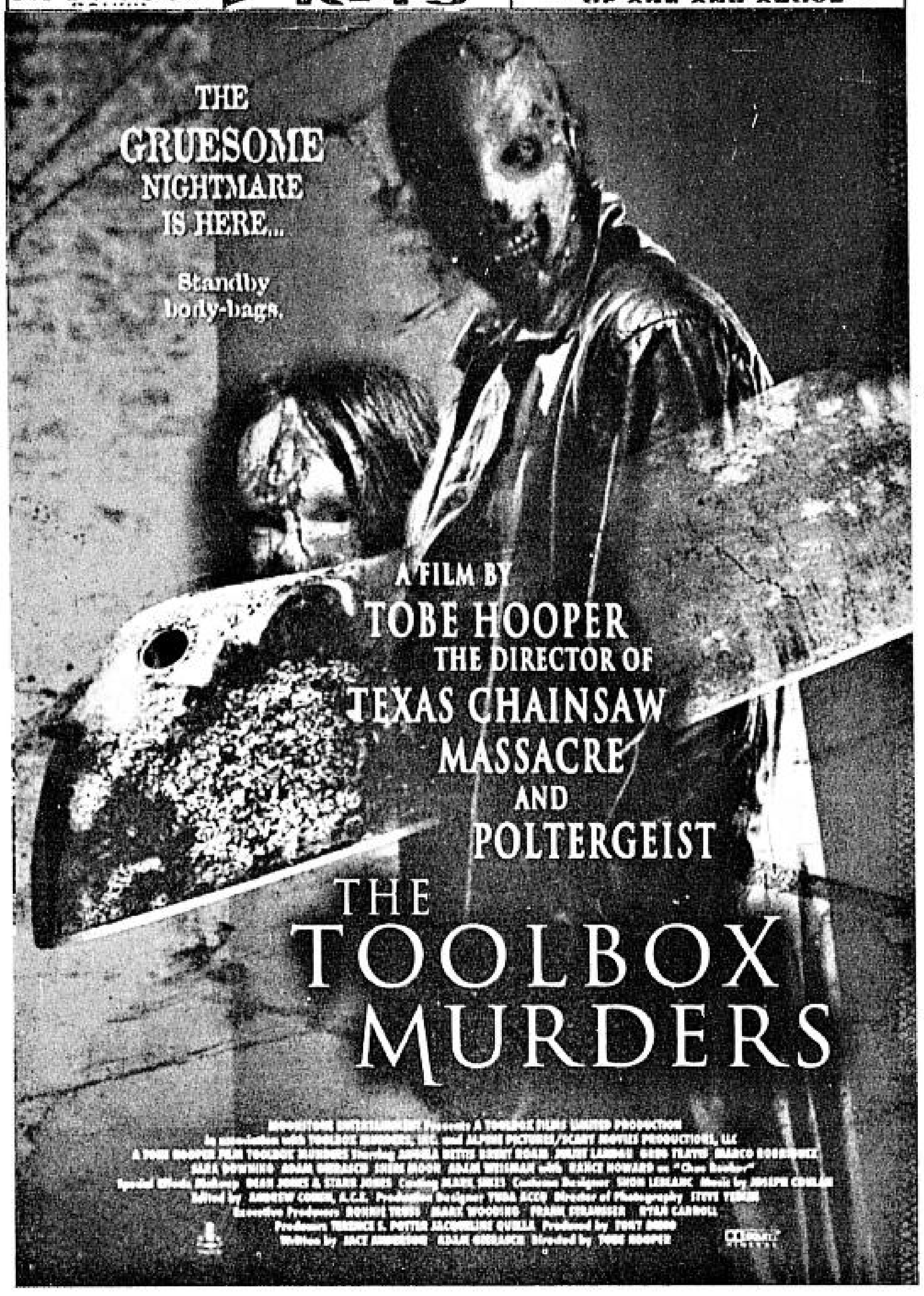
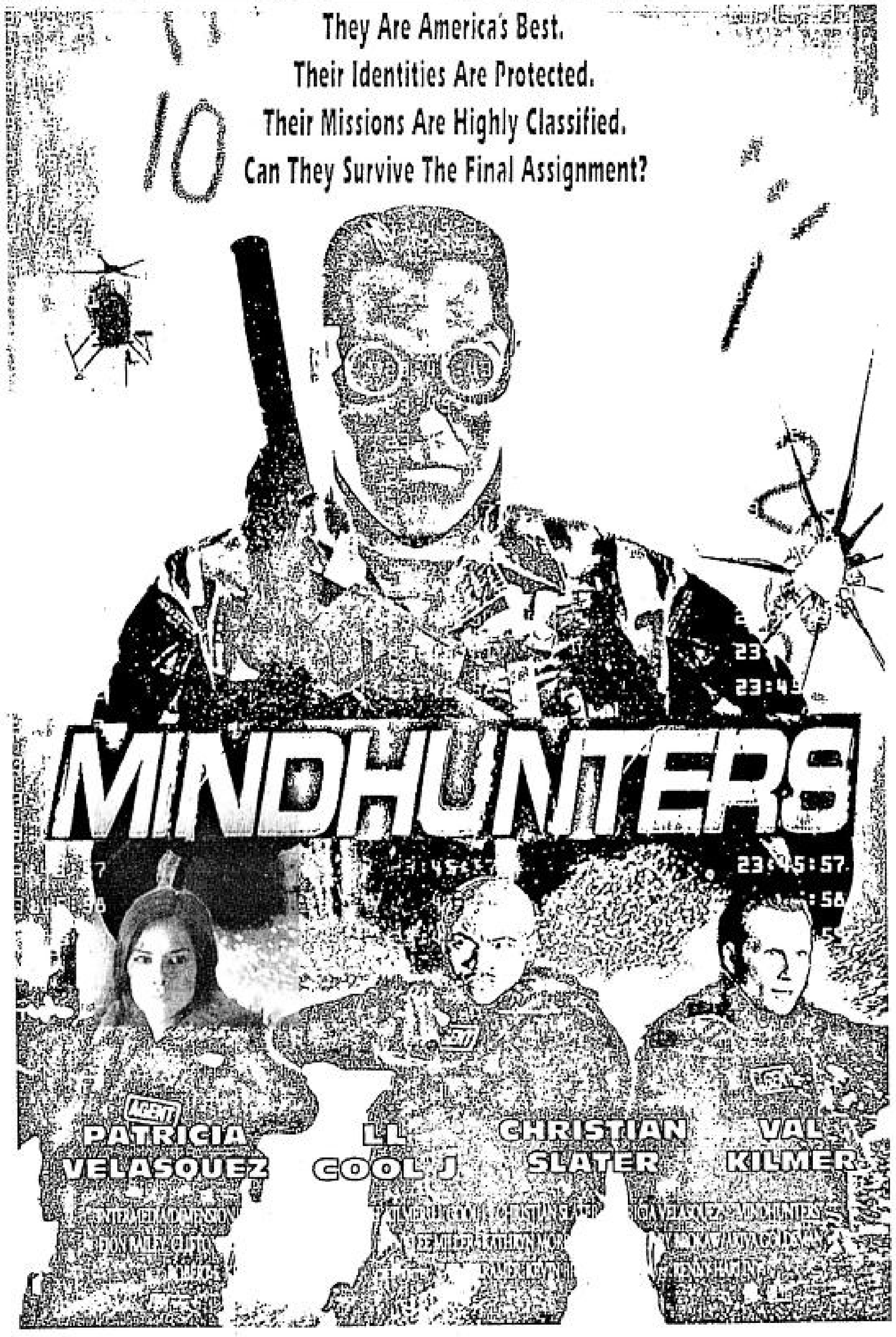
# OPENS TODAY !

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE


THE
GRUESOME
NIGHTMARE
IS HERE...
Standby
body-bags.
A FILM BY
TOBE HOOPER
THE DIRECTOR OF
TEXAS CHAINSAW
MASSACRE
AND
POLTERGEIST
THE
TOOLBOX
MURDERS

# OPENS SEPTEMBER 15

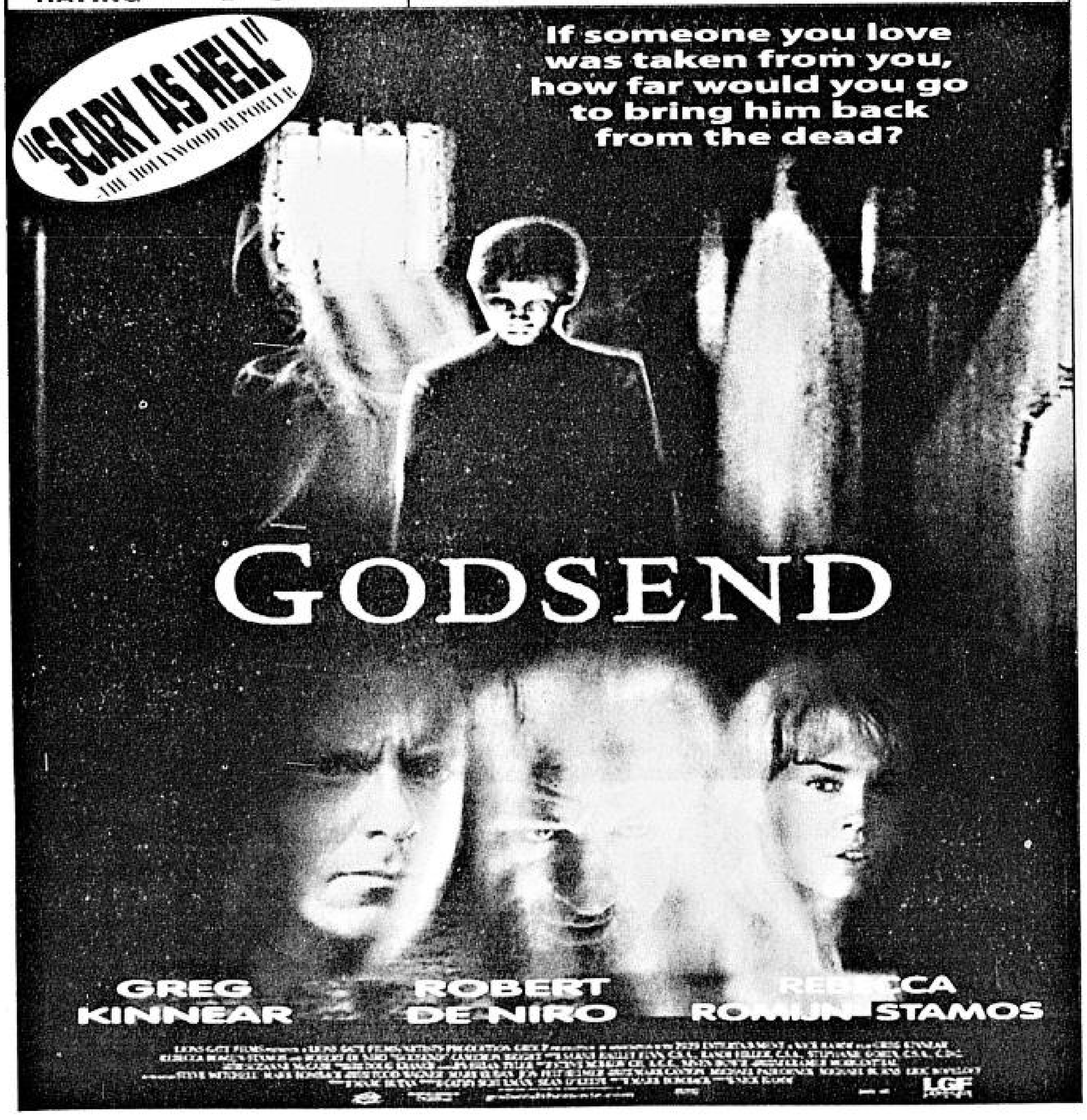
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP


They Are America's Best.
Their Identities Are Protected.
Their Missions Are Highly Classified.
Can They Survive The Final Assignment?
MINDHUNTERS
PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
LL COOL J
CHRISTIAN SLATER
VAL KILMER

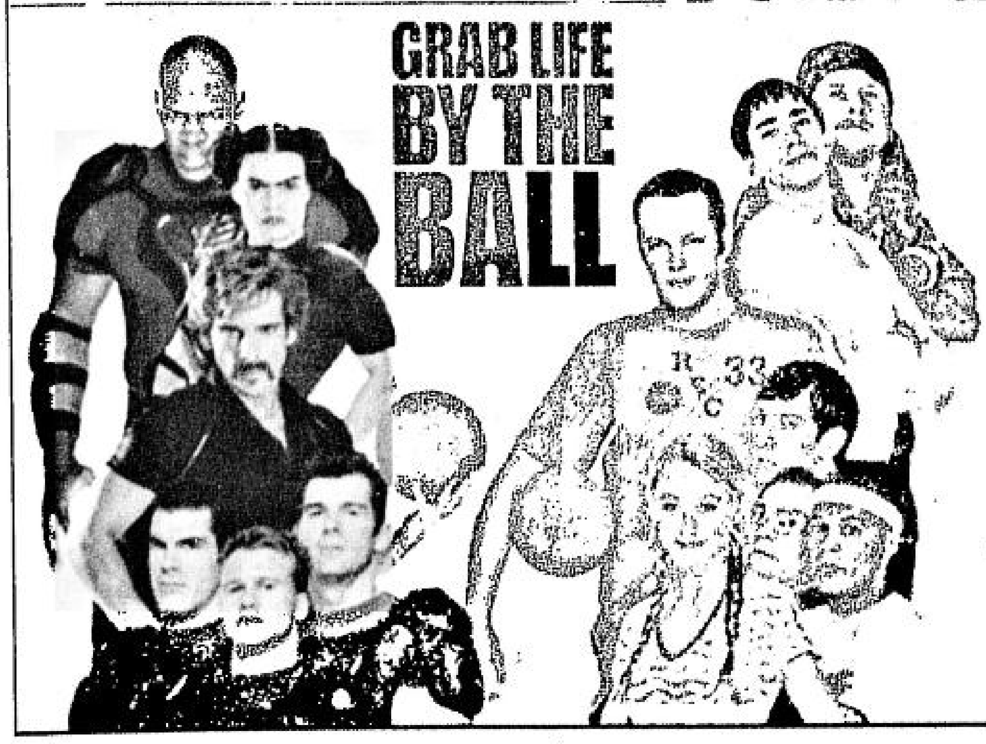
# BUBUHAYIN ANG PATAY NGAYON !

BAWAL MANUOD ANG MGA MAHIHINA ANG SIKMURA
PASISIGAWIN KA MULA SIMULA HANGGANG WAKAS.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP


"SCARY AS HELL"
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead?
GODSEND
GREG KINNEAR
ROBERT DE NIRO
REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS
LGF

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL

**VINCE VAUGHN BEN STILLER**

# DodgeBall

a TRUE underdog story

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A RED HOUR PRODUCTION
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MUSIC SUPERVISOR GEORGE DRAKOULIAS COSTUME DESIGNER CAROL RAMSEY EDITED BY ALAN BAUMGARTEN A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER MAHER AHMAD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JERZY ZIELINSKI ASC
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY McLAGLEN RHOADES RADER PRODUCED BY BEN STILLER STUART CORNFELD WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RAWSON MARSHALL THURBER
www.dodgeballmovie.com

# OPENS TODAY !

# Faintings, huttles and buttles, other boob-tube booboos

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 Dolby ANACONDAS 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
4 SDDS THE TERMINAL 12:25 pm 3:15 pm 6:05 pm 8:55 pm
5 dts DODGEBALL 12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
6 Dolby TOOL BOX MURDERS 12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
7 Dolby GODSEND 12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
ARANETA COLISEUM
Sep 8 NCAA - 2 pm CHEERING / 4 pm SBC vs MIT
Sep 10 NCAA : FINAL 4 - GAMES
Sep 11 ATENEO vs FEU
Sep 12 UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep 15 JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17 SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18 WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Dec 25 DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics
For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

SHOWING TODAY at SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 6
The European Union in cooperation with Mowelfund Film Institute, The Podium & SM Cinemas presents
CINE EUROPA 7: THE BIGGER PICTURE
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at 7pm
UPSWING
(Finland) by Johanna Vuoksenmaa
at 9:30pm
LES CHORISTES
(France) by Christophe Barratier
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FREE FILM LECTURE
at CINE EUROPA
12nn, Sat, Sept 11, Cinema 6
"EUROPE and PRE-HOLLYWOOD PHILIPPINES: A survey of Early Cinema"
by Nick Deocampo
FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, CINEASTES & MOVIEGOERS!!
THE BIGGEST EUROPEAN FILM FEST TO HIT THE COUNTRY!
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THE PODIUM EPSON Air Philippines

QUIZMASTER: What is the first name of Indiana Jones? Clue: it has the letters H, N and R.

Contestant: Honey!

Contestant No. 2: Maharilyn!

(No, Henry!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the name of the famous wall in a country in Europe that was dramatically taken down years ago?

Contestant: Wall City!

(No, Berlin Wall.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the name of the local TV host whose second name is only an initial, the same letter with which the family name of Gary Valenciano starts?

Contestant: Michael Jackson!

(No, Michael V!)

* * *

Host: Why did you join show biz?

Guest: *Para* financially problem, *po.*

(Ah, so...)

* * *

## VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

Host: Will you invite them to your next sexy show?

Guest: Of course. *Panoorin niyo po ang aming sexy na palabas, kung nabitin kayo sa katatapos lang na* Vench underwear fashion show!

(Va-va-voom!)

* * *

Host: Aside from cash, what other prizes are we going to give away at the end of today's program?

FAINTINGS/A2-2

Surround Sound
Find out how the latest Dolby Digital surround EX system can produce sound so clear, so real, it will fully envelop your senses!

"I hear it up there!"
"No! It came from over there!"
"It's right here beside us!"
"Guys! It's all around."
Shangri-La Plaza
SHANG CINEPLEX

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# Senate sets probe of state-owned firms

By Michelle V. Remo

**BLAMING the country's fiscal problems largely on the "mismanagement" of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), the Senate committee on ways and means is preparing an audit of the financial performance of state-owned companies, and an investigation of the way their officials are handling the finances.**

"It is now clear that our problems are brought about by the way these GOCCs were mismanaged, but it has never been pointed out in the newspapers. All of a sudden people are blaming pork barrel, which has been in existence for decades now, for the country's fiscal problems," said an irate Sen. Manuel Villar during yesterday's Senate hearing on the national government's fiscal plan.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the ways and means committee, noted during the hearing that the bulk of the country's debt woes had been caused by the huge losses of GOCCs like National Power Corp. The losses forced GOCCs to enter into large borrowings, which bloated the country's public sector debt.

Citing data from the Department of Finance, Recto said that of the P5.3-trillion public sector debt as of 2003, borrowings made by GOCCs accounted for P2.1 trillion, while the national government's share was at P3.3 trillion.

While the national government roughly accounts for 60 percent or bulk of the public sector debt, a substantial part of its borrowings were also intended to help financially ailing GOCCs. In effect, Recto said, the GOCCs actually account for the bulk of the country's debt. He added that since 1998, the national government has already been assuming liabilities of state-owned companies.

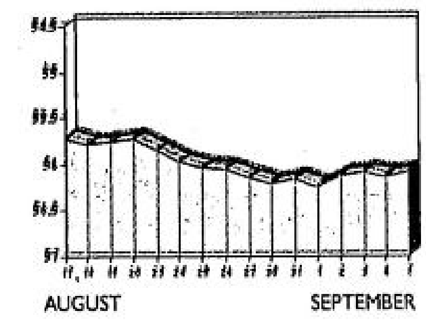
"The problem lies really on the GOCCs' losses that have been growing exponentially," said Recto. He noted that after posting a cumulative budget surplus of P25 billion in 2001, GOCCs have posted P7.7 billion in losses in 2002, widening to more than P130 billion this year.

SENATE/ B2

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 56.095 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2004

Y 109.74 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2004

GOLD: $400.70-401.20
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 7, 2004

### CURRENCIES

September 7, 2004

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.828912 | 1.000000 | 56.0890 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007504 | 0.009053 | 0.5078 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.472480 | 1.776400 | 99.6365 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.106287 | 0.128225 | 7.1920 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.652482 | 0.787154 | 44.1507 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.637674 | 0.769290 | 43.1487 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.486394 | 0.586786 | 32.9122 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.572374 | 0.690512 | 38.7301 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.198824 | 2.652661 | 148.7851 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.221038 | 0.266660 | 14.9567 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.484971 | 0.585069 | 32.8159 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000090 | 0.000108 | 0.0061 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019959 | 0.024079 | 1.3506 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.225683 | 0.272264 | 15.2710 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.206400 | 67.6658 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.276304 | 0.333333 | 18.6963 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.283292 | 0.341763 | 19.1691 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134474 | 0.162230 | 9.0993 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017911 | 0.021608 | 1.2120 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.218141 | 0.263165 | 14.7607 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.072098 | 0.086979 | 4.8786 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.534644 | 0.644995 | 36.1771 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.120144 | 0.144942 | 8.1297 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000721 | 0.000870 | 0.0488 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.024590 | 0.029665 | 1.6639 |

## STOCK MARKET

### Stocks close sharply higher

SHARE prices closed up 2.34 percent yesterday, reaching a new 41-month high as investors trawled the market for undervalued stocks, dealers said.

STOCKS/ B2

# Forex reserves inch up to $15.96B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves inched up by $11 million to $15.96 billion as of end-August from a month ago, buoyed by proceeds from the government's fresh foreign borrowings.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Alberto Reyes yesterday said the end-August GIR level was well above the central monetary agency's target of $14-$15 billion for 2004.

However, the end-August level was lower than the $16.16 billion build-up during the same period last year.

"The increase in GIR was mainly attributed to the national government's deposit with the BSP of proceeds from the reopening of its global bond issue," Reyes said.

He noted that the net deposits placed with the BSP during the month stood at $451 million.

"These were partly offset, however, by the debt service requirements of the national government and the BSP," he said.

The GIR, consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments, is seen as an indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy. Central banks likewise dip into the GIR when they defend their local currencies against speculative attacks.

"This GIR level is adequate to cover about 4.3 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income. This level is

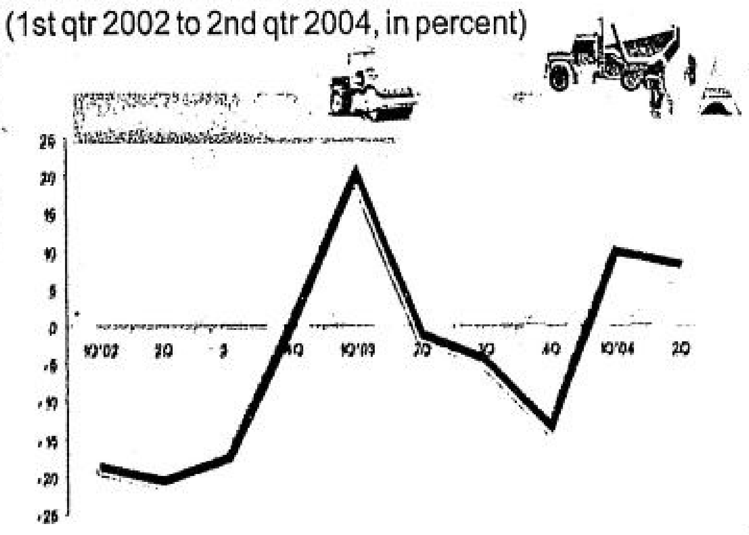
FOREX/ B2

## INQUIRER MONITOR

**Figures that matter in our nation's life**

### Growth in investments

(1st qtr 2002 to 2nd qtr 2004, in percent)



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board

INCREASED government expenditure on public infrastructure pushed investments to grow for the second straight quarter this year by 8.5 percent. The North Luzon tollways project was the major component in public construction. Total fixed investments, which include public and private constructions, equipment and machinery and breeding stock and orchard development, grew by 6.1 percent, an improvement from last year's negative 0.7 percent growth in the same period.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Are KIAs the best cars available?

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 7, 2004)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 17 | 17 | 16.75 | 17 | 17,100 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 42.5 | 43 | 42 | 42 | 1,492,000 |
| China Banking Corp. | 530 | 530 | 520 | 520 | 560 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 14,500 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.49 | 0.5 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 1,050,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 25 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 374,300 |
| Philippine Trust Co. | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 10,000 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 95,800 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 21.25 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 39,300 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 600 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 10,000 |
| First Abacus Financial | 0.6 | 0.6 | .6 | 0.6 | 10,000 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 37,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1510 | 1525 | 1510 | 1525 | 370 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20 | 20.25 | 15,200 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.65 | 0.66 | 0.65 | 0.66 | 1,320,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 905 | 945 | 905 | 945 | 130,340 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.5 | 955,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.037 | 0.038 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 4,300,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 50,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 23,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 2.9 | 2.95 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 16,820,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1345 | 1350 | 1345 | 1350 | 78,730 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.67 | 0.68 | 0.65 | 0.66 | 4,820,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 124,600,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15 | 15.25 | 225,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 23.5 | 24 | 23.25 | 23.5 | 1,447,700 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.7 | 2.75 | 2.7 | 2.75 | 3,450,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 2.12 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 5,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 60,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 96,000 |
| Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp. | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 75,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 4.45 | 4.55 | 4.45 | 4.55 | 2,816,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 90,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.37 | 0.39 | 700,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 150,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 1.9 | 2.12 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 5,330,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 9,400 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 26 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 42,800 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.75 | 0.78 | 0.75 | 0.78 | 180,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 10,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 58 | 59 | 58 | 58.5 | 99,400 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 70.5 | 70.5 | 69.5 | 70 | 2,064,400 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 790,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 16,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.8 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 14,876,000 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 100,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.3 | 3.35 | 169,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.027 | 0.028 | 0.026 | 0.027 | 12,800,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 245,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 2,500,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0065 | 0.007 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 147,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 10,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.56 | 1.58 | 1.56 | 1.58 | 25,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 25 | 25 | 24.75 | 24.75 | 22,900 |
| Banpres Holdings Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.53 | 0.54 | 11,450,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.13 | 0.135 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 1,250,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 5,530,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.145 | 0.17 | 0.145 | 0.16 | 9,850,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.26 | 2.28 | 20,277,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 30,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 3.55 | 3.55 | 3.55 | 3.55 | 5,000 |
| F&J Princ.e Holdings Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 20,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 26.5 | 27 | 26.5 | 27 | 1,122,400 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.07 | 0.0725 | 0.07 | 0.0725 | 7,800,000 |
| House Of Investments Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 10,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.8 | 2.04 | 1.8 | 1.92 | 1,043,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 120,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 1.28 | 1.38 | 1.26 | 1.38 | 130,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. B | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 3,400,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.22 | 1.24 | 1.2 | 1.24 | 1,554,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 150,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp | 0.52 | 0.58 | 0.5 | 0.58 | 217,940,000 |
| Philcomsat Holdings Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 100,000 |
| Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 90,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.16 | 0.175 | 0.16 | 0.175 | 3,230,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 350,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 20,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.15 | 0.155 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 5,350,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.19 | 0.2 | 300,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.225 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 360,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Matsushita Elec Phil Corp. | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.8 | 1.88 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 383,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 152,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0725 | 0.075 | 0.0725 | 0.075 | 1,800,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.71 | 0.75 | 0.7 | 0.74 | 16,680,000 |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 1,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 360,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 500,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 14,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 190,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 192,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,600 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 3,000 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.7 | 6 | 5.7 | 6 | 17,346,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 30,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 1,140,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.29 | 12,630,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 1,150,000 |
| EIB Realty Developers Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 10,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 17,750,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 10,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 0.99 | 1.02 | 0.98 | 1.02 | 8,440,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.18 | 0.185 | 0.175 | 0.18 | 860,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.44 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 890,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 100,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 18,984,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0055 | 0.006 | 0.0055 | 0.006 | 362,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 20,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 10,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.2 | 0.21 | 0.2 | 0.21 | 2,280,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 320,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.015 | 449,600,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 277,900,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0055 | 0.007 | 0.0055 | 0.0065 | 5,985,000,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 600,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 510,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.41 | 0.43 | 0.41 | 0.43 | 1,150,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 73,000,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0038 | 0.004 | 0.0038 | 0.004 | 125,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0038 | 0.004 | 0.0038 | 0.004 | 51,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.004 | 0.0042 | 0.004 | 0.0042 | 110,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0042 | 0.0044 | 0.0042 | 0.0044 | 112,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 20,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.013 | 0.011 | 0.013 | 72,800,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 47,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.031 | 0.033 | 0.031 | 0.032 | 2,400,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 430,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

**VICTORIAS Milling Co.** has paid P8,328,078.06 to its non-bank creditors (trade suppliers) as of Aug. 31.

* * *

SHERRYLOU Khosiking, corporate secretary of **UEM Development Phils. Inc.**, tendered her resignation on Sept. 1, effective immediately.

* * *

**VIVANT Corp.** (formerly Philstar.com Inc.) will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. at the Acacia Room of the Cebu Country Club on Gov. M. Cuenco Avenue in Banilad, Cebu City.

* * *

AT THE annual stockholders' meeting of **Waterfront Philippines Inc.** held on Sept. 4, the following were elected directors for 2004-2005: Renato Magadia, Patrick Gregorio, Kenneth Gatchalian, Rexlon Gatchalian, Alexandria Gonzales (independent), Arthur Lopez (independent), Donato Almeda, Lamberto Mercado Jr. and Elvira Ting. KPMG Laya Mananghaya was elected external auditor. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

# Senate sets probe of state-owned firms

From page B1

The bulk of the budget deficits of GOCCs was accounted for by Napocor, which is expecting its losses to reach P113 billion by year's end. Napocor is the single biggest liability of the national government, which intends to assume the power firm's P500 billion in debt as a move to revitalize the ailing power sector.

Sen. Sergio Osmena III, also a member of the Senate ways and means committee, directed Finance officials to provide the Senate committee with the financial statements of all GOCCs for auditing. He likewise asked the DOF to furnish the Senate a report on the salaries of GOCC officials.

"Are you aware that the salary of the GSIS head (Winston Garcia) is P600,000 a month? If you don't know the salaries of the GOCC officials, it says much about your supervision of the GOCCs," Osmeña told Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio.

The senators said they wanted an inquiry into the way officials of GOCCs were compensated and the way the finances of the state-owned firms were being handled.

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascua, in response, admitted that the losses of state-owned firms were "appalling," but added that the economic team was already trying to address the problem.

She said the economic team, which includes the DOF and the Department of Budget and Management, was preparing a draft executive order for the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo that would give vast supervisory power to the DOF over GOCCs.

The budget official said the executive order, if approved, would require all state-owned companies to submit financial report to the DOF on a quarterly basis and authorize line agencies to conduct an audit of the GOCCs whenever deemed necessary.

# Forex . . .

From page B1

also equivalent to 2.2 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.3 times based on residual maturity," he said.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

This brought the BSP's net international reserves as of end-August, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, to $13.79 billion or 0.4 percent higher than the previous month's level.

The GIR level is expected to improve in the next few months due to more bond offerings planned by the government.

The Arroyo administration plans to brave the international capital market anew with a bond float of at least $750 million despite its recent admission that it was in amid a fiscal crisis.

The government recently mandated three investment banks—Credit Suisse First Boston, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan Chase--to underwrite the new debt offering.

# Stocks

From page B1

The bargain hunting, focused on stocks seen having good earnings prospects, helped continue the market's upturn from the middle of last week, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 38.22 points to 1,671.76, the intraday high. It was the index's highest closing level since Feb. 19, 2001, when it settled at 1,673.95.

Gainers outnumbered losers 60 to 24, with 49 stocks unchanged.

Volume rose to 8.38 billion shares valued at P1.19 billion from 3.3 billion shares worth P556.7 million on Monday.

Globe Telecom was up P45 at P945 while rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained P10 at P1,350. *AFP*

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP / JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : Sept. 29, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following items:

SCHEDULE I

| | Item Description and Location | Minimum Bid Price* |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | One (1) lot of unserviceable plant parts, returned equipment and used/junk items such as: copper-tubes, radiator elements, telephone wires, electric cables, automotive parts, and spares junk vehicles, office equipment, laboratory equipment, scrap metals, batteries, service transformer, as shown in the pictures. Located at Pantabangan HEP, Nueva Ecija Province. | P 41,803.00/lot |
| 2 | One (1) lot of unserviceable and scrap metals, consisting of assorted scrap iron and copper wires and cables. Located at NPC-MEC, Brgy. Bul and at Sucat TPP, Muntinlupa City. | P 1,092,960.00/lot |
| 3. | One (1) lot of unserviceable items, junk equipment and scrap iron and copper wires. Located at NPC-SPUG Compound, in Brgy. Minuyan, San Jose Del Monte City (Bulacan). | P 233,950.00/lot |

SCHEDULE – II

| | Two-Year Contract of Sale: | Minimum Bid Price |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Old Records / Used papers at NPC HO (Bond Deposit Required: P 3,500.00) | P 5.00 / kg. |
| 2. | Old Newspapers / cartons at NPC HO (Bond Deposit Required : P 2,000.00) | P 1.50 / kg. |
| 3. | Used Continuous Forms at NPC HO (Bond Deposit Required P1,000.00) | P 9.27 / kg. |

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return (Original must be presented).

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM September 26, 2004.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – September 8, 9 & 10, 2004)

www.inter-ed.com

BEYOND HORIZONS
16th Career Counseling & Guidance Fair

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WHERE: PHIL TRADE CENTER (PTTC)
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ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
• e-mail: pid@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Various Medical Equipment, with an approved budget of Thirty Six Million Pesos (Php 36,000,000.00) chargeable against the AFP Modernization Trust Fund, broken down into five (5) LOTs, as follows:

| ITEM | NOMENCLATURE | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|
| LOT 1 | RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT | 5,060,000.00 |
| LOT 2 | OPERATING ROOM/ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT | 10,480,000.00 |
| LOT 3 | LABORATORY EQUIPMENT | 5,444,000.00 |
| LOT 4 | RECOVERY ROOM/INTENSIVE CARE UNIT EQPT | 10,876,000.00 |
| LOT 5 | SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS | 4,140,000.00 |
| | TOTAL | Php 36,000,000.00 |

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers and authorized suppliers/distributors of said medical equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents for the respective LOTs are available for issuance starting September 1, 2004 until October 7, 2004 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment, as follows:

| ITEM | BID DOCUMENTS | PRICE |
|---|---|---|
| LOT 1 | RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT | Php 1,000.00 |
| LOT 2 | OPERATING ROOM/ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT | 1,500.00 |
| LOT 3 | LABORATORY EQUIPMENT | 1,000.00 |
| LOT 4 | RECOVERY ROOM/INTENSIVE CARE UNIT EQPT | 1,500.00 |
| LOT 5 | SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS | 1,000.00 |

which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

A Secretary's Certificate with Board Resolution or Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on September 24, 2004 at 09:00 AM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements and bid envelopes is on October 8, 2004 at 09:00 AM (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 09:30 AM at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Original Signed)
REYNALDO D RIVERA
Major General AFP
Chairman, AFP BAC

(PDI – September 1 & 8, 2004)

The PMAP Industrial Relations (IR) Committee and the Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors (PALSCON) invite you to a symposium on

COOPERATIVES AS SERVICE CONTRACTORS?

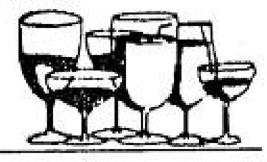
Date: September 9, 2004
Thursday
Time: 1:00-5:00 pm
Venue: Metro Club,
Makati City
Fee: P 600.00

- Hear the discussion on the legalities of cooperatives as an alternative to outsourcing.
- Hear it straight from long-time PMAPer and now Department of Labor and Employment Undersecretary, the Hon. Josephus B. Jimenez, FPM.

For reservations, please contact:
PMAP
Agnes Escaño - 726-1588/81/32
(agnes.escano@pmap.org.ph)
or
PALSCON
Linda Dichoson - 891-5581 (almer@impactnet.com)
Loida Bautista - 534-0035, 534-0015

# Bullish mood despite crisis talk

## COCKTALES



**Victor C. Agustin**

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura will make a rare appearance this afternoon, together with the GMA economic managers and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, at a midyear economic briefing to assure investors and fund managers on the country's long-term fiscal, as well as his own personal, health.

But even before the briefing, the stock market punters are already voting with their pesos, given the uncharacteristic deficit-busting talks Malacañang and the politicians have been sounding.

Yesterday, the stock market, mainly on the strength of local buyers, breached the P1-billion level—admittedly a far cry from the pre-currency crisis daily average trade of P3 billion—on the assurance from the central bank that it would hold the key rates steady despite the crude oil-spiked inflationary trend.

Still, the trading volume was enough to push the market to a three-year high at 1,671.76 points, approaching the Edsa II euphoric level of 1,673.95.

Those who managed, for instance, to position themselves with Metro Pacific at the 30 centavos level last week nearly doubled their money yesterday, despite MPC's clarification that the real estate company's diversification into the cash-generating multibillion-peso expressway venture was probably still a year away from reality.

Even containerized cargo port operator ICTSI, with Enrique Razon Jr. vigorously denying insinuations that he is behind Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's attack against possible competitor Harbour Centre, managed to add 10 centavos more yesterday to close at P4.55, from last month's P3.20.

If the rally continues—and government can finally manage to overcome populist sentiments and walk their tough talk—expect the two leading female stockbrokers shouting buy and sell orders on their phones, instead of publicly sniping at each other.

### $100 fare is back

NORTHWEST Airlines has brought back its popular cash-plus-miles promo in time for the fall travel slack.

Roundtrip economy fares from Manila to Portland, San Francisco and New York's JFK airport can be had for as little as $100 plus 45,000 frequent flier miles. Not enough mileage? 35,000 miles plus $200 or 25,000 miles plus $300 would also qualify.

Northwest has even expanded the promo coverage to include all other mainland US cities and Canadian destinations, for an extra $100 per fare.

As well, roundtrip economy fares to Tokyo or Nagoya could be availed of for as low as 10,000 miles plus $100, and business class passage for 20,000 miles plus $200.

Promo travel out of Manila may be taken any day from Sept. 15 to Dec. 8. The fares all have 60-day validity, which means the return flight to Manila may be taken as late as Feb. 8, 2005. However, no return flights are allowed Dec. 10-23, during the height of the balikbayan Yuletide crush.

Book and buy deadline is Oct. 15. The promo is available only through Northwest offices or through the airline website.

Seats are limited.

### Trooper a trouper

DESPITE having stopped its US production after the 2002 model, the Isuzu Trooper is still being offered in the country, just like the Mitsubishi Pajero Field Master series, a testament to their enduring local popularity.

In fact, if you scour the website, there is apparently no other country except the Philippines that is still assembling and selling even the right-hand version of the Trooper.

Isuzu Philippines is unveiling tomorrow night the 2005 model of the Trooper, which looks very much like the current model save for more enhanced features. The price for the 2005 has yet to be determined at press time, but it should not deviate much from the P1.799-million tag of the current Skyroof model.

Isuzu has sold a total of 5,722 Troopers from its 1996 local introduction up to July 2004. The figure does not include the parallel second-hand imports brought in from Subic and Clark.

### Heard through the grapevine

THE BENEFICIAL majority owner of wireless broadband provider Meridian Telekoms that Smart has acquired for an undisclosed amount is none other than former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

Jimenez, who is currently serving his short jail sentence in a better-secured facility in Chicago instead of his adopted home state of Florida, intends to return to the country and reclaim his old district.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)*

# GMA 7 nets ₱884M in first 7 months

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

GMA NETWORK Inc. yesterday reported a net profit of P885 million in the first seven months of the year, up 25 percent from P707 million a year ago.

The second-largest broadcast network is now claiming to have overtaken its fierce competitor in terms of airtime sales.

The company's revenue grew 17 percent to P4.3 billion from January to July, but operating expenses also increased by 20 percent to about P2 billion from P1.7 billion a year ago.

Felipe Gozon, GMA president, said the company would push through with its initial public offering in the first quarter of 2005.

Gozon said the company would be naming an underwriter during the third quarter and the process of valuation, registration and getting approvals would ensue afterwards.

"The plan of selling shares in the domestic and foreign market has not changed," said Gozon. "We will push through with the IPO by the first quarter of 2005. We are still working on the same numbers and I think all three major shareholders are in agreement about the plan."

The company is planning to sell 30 percent of its shares to the public to raise as much as P9 billion for the broadcast firm and its major shareholders.

Gozon said GMA was likely to hit its profit target of P1.5 billion this year from a billion pesos in 2003. GMA had surpassed ABS-CBN in terms of profit since last year.

During the first half, ABS-CBN registered profits of P581 million against GMA's P751 million.

Gozon said GMA's performance in July even fell below the company's internal target. "We were looking at sales of about P690 million in July, but the actual figure was lower. It was still ahead of last year, but there are indications that there could be a slowdown as what we are seeing industry wide."

In July alone, sales hit about 680 million. Income for the month of July was at P133 million.

The GMA official said that in the first 7 months, GMA's airtime loading was already about one percent less compared to the previous year. He added that the rival network likely suffered a double-digit drop in airtime sales.

"From January to August, we maintained our total day edge on ratings not because of ads but of cost efficiency. We cut spending. Our advertising load this year is lower than last year because of our commitment to the Advertising Board to regulate our commercials," Gozon said.

# DBP expects to earn ₱2B in alternate trade system

**Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines (DBP) believes that it can earn over P2 billion in the first three years of operating an alternative trading system (ATS), said an official of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

But according to Emilio Aquino, SEC director, the commission has yet to approve the DBP's proposed operation of an electronic market for buyers and sellers of securities.

Under SEC rules, an ATS is "any organization, association, person or group of persons that operates or provides an electronic marketplace to bring together primary market issuers of securities of SEC-registered small, medium, growth, venture enterprises and technology-based ventures and investors who wish to buy those securities."

The SEC director explained that the ATS would help small and medium firms to sell their receivables, a form of debt owed to a company for certain goods sold.

The DBP in April said that it would launch a new marketplace for receivables of SMEs to banks and insurance companies—the first of its kind in the country.

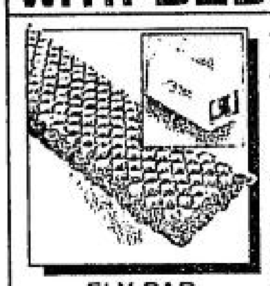
DBP officials are hoping to speed up the lending to SMEs by creating an electronic marketplace for the SMEs' receivables from large companies.

Banks and financial institutions are in the business of buying receivables, also known as factoring. For instance, an SME that supplies goods to a food and beverage firm can sell its 90-day receivables from that same food and beverage company. However, the processing would usually take a month to do so, as the buyer would still have to call up the food and beverage firm to authenticate the receivables.

When banks bid for the receivables of selected companies, SMEs would benefit by getting the most out of their assets.

"The DBP will put up an electronic authentication system for these receivables and then create a marketplace, a bidding system so that banks can compete to lower the cost for SMEs," said Simon Paterno, former DBP president.

The DBP had tied up with computer giant IBM to develop the facility. The facility aims to attract interest among banks and other financial institutions.



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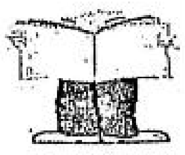

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| 3 Months | 3.000% | 3.250% | 3.500% |
| 6 Months | 3.250% | 3.250% | 3.500% |
| 12 Months | 3.250% | 3.500% | 3.500% |

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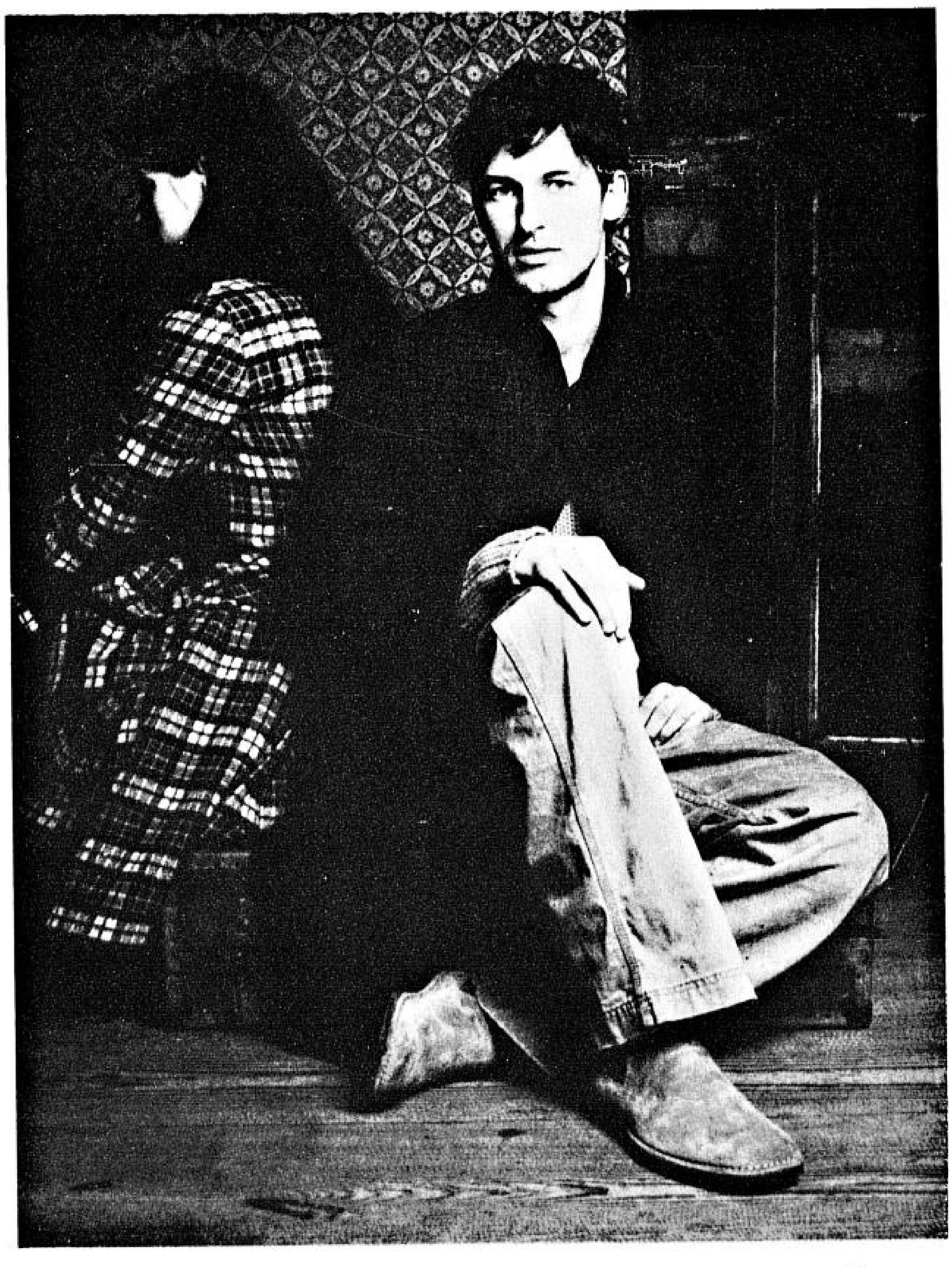

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# PEOPLE at WORK

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E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

# Differently abled lawyer is advocate for disadvantaged

By Candy G. Villanueva
*Contributor*

**CAREER TALES**

AT FIRST glance, Roxy O. Lacson seems meek and frail. His small frame suggests weakness but his earnest eyes suggest differently. They shine with character, displaying strength, determination and compassion. His body slightly disfigured, Lacson goes around assisted by his wife to spread the word, "I am disabled but I do not ask for your pity and your donation. I am just as capable as you are. All I want is equal opportunity." His voice is strong and confident as he clamors for equality not only for himself but also for the rest of the differently abled and disadvantaged minority.

Lacson's advocacy stems from his own disability caused by polio at a young age. But his fight now is more for others than for himself because he has lived a full life of opportunities and realized dreams. Married with kids, Lacson is a senior partner of the Lacson-Villanueva law office in Bacolod City. He specializes in corporate, labor and agrarian reform and uses his position to fight for those who suffer from disabilities that they may be offered with the same opportunities he has been blessed with.

## Normal childhood

At the young age of four, Lacson contracted polio, which paralyzed his whole body. The illness that ravaged his body left him incapacitated. He couldn't even move a finger. Years of therapy helped him regain the use of his limbs but they are still weak compared to a normal body's strength. As a result, the young Lacson lived a sheltered life. He couldn't get around without a companion even at school. Aside from the constant companion tagging along, Lacson led a typical student's life at La Salle High School in Bacolod City. "I always thought of myself as normal, there is nothing other persons can do that I can't do," Lacson says. In fact, like most children his age then, he confesses he was quite mischievous and playful.

He was greatly interested in biology and electronics but because of his frail condition, his family thought best for him to be a lawyer. "I did not exactly stumble into my career, when I enrolled in the College of Law. I thought I would go at it on a year-to-year basis, to see how far I could go. But before I knew it, I was taking the bar exams," confesses Lacson. He earned his law degree at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in the sugar cane capital.

## Differently abled

Many people ignore differently abled individuals. This is because they are viewed differently from the rest of society. Lacson, a natural victim of people's constricting views, wishes to broaden consciousness. "Up to about 10 years ago, the awareness of people towards disability was not so good. People will not talk to you fearing your disability has affected your head. It is good that with the movement of disabled people, gradually, the barriers are coming down. It is a surprise that sometimes people actually give way to the disabled," claims Lacson.

He has learned early on that in spite of one's disability, one does not necessarily have to succumb to debilitation. Lacson rose above his physical weakness and used his other strengths instead. He used his brilliant mind and his generous heart. "My resourcefulness tells me there's always another way around things," he explains.

With a happy family life and successful law practice, Lacson uses his position to educate the people and promote awareness of the disabled. "The disabled do not want donations. All they want is equal opportunity to earn a living and equal access to everywhere." According to Lacson, there is an Accessibility Law obligating buildings to have access ramps for the disabled. Unfortunately, this law is gravely violated. Although Lacson doesn't go around in a wheel chair and is in fact mobile with his own two feet, he finds it sad that even our government buildings do not adhere to the Accessibility Law.

## Advocate

An active advocate for the working disabled, Lacson is the vice president of the Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc., (NORFI). NORFI is an organization aimed to provide welfare and rehabilitation for the disabled.

He is also involved in the group's technical assistance to non-government organizations (TANGO) project. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development for the establishment of Well-Family Midwife Clinics (WFMC) to provide maternal and child health care including the disabled. With Lacson's efforts, he was able to lead the organization to establish 21 clinics in Negros, Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan. Lacson is also Vice President for External Affairs of the Well-Family Partnerships Foundation, Inc., the mother organization of all WFMC in the Philippines.

A father of two, Lacson uses his legal expertise to champion youth causes. He was once the legal counsel of the University of St. La Salle Integrated Parents Association, Inc. to promote the well-being of the students and parents of the school.

## Recognition

"People should be aware of the disabled, I have spoken on this in TV programs, meetings, etc., and I will continue to do so using my position in the organizations I am holding," states Lacson. In 1988, using his expertise in the law, he helped incorporate an association for the disabled. The Kapisanan ng May Kapansanan ng Pilipinas, Inc. is the umbrella organization of all organizations of the disabled in the Philippines.

LACSON

For his dedication to help uplift lives of persons with disabilities and for sharing knowledge in rehabilitation work, Lacson was awarded the Presidential Award by Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Given once every two years, the Presidential Award is one category under the Apolinario Mabini Awards organized yearly by the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Inc.

His alma mater recently honored him with the St. La Salle Award and was cited for being "an exemplary La Sallian, whose indomitable spirit and sense of purpose inspires us all to overcome obstacles, achieve our goals and share our gifts."

Last year, he was recognized as Regional Awardee for Outstanding Volunteers of Non-Government Organizations, conducted by the Regional Development Council in Iloilo City for sharing his legal knowledge and participating in rehabilitation projects to help give a better life for the differently abled.

And the list continues. Even today, he continues to inspire the disabled not to be discouraged because of their condition. "Use it as your advantage or rallying point. There are 1,001 ways of getting around things," reminds Lacson. He also hopes to open the eyes of the people at the other side of the fence. For Lacson, in spite of the long list of achievements, the fight is far from over. "Sometimes I would think that I would mellow down and make my life easy, but there is still that desire to be on the cutting edge of life. I'm alive, so I guess my struggle is not yet over."

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# *Effective procurement can be a solution to fiscal crisis*

By Tita Datu Puangco

**Advice**
**FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK**

**I READ your enlightened answers as to what an ordinary employee can do to address the fiscal crisis. But we all know a lot depends on what can be done at the macro level—the strategic response from the government and private sectors. Knowing your expertise in organization development, what do you think is a "balanced approach" at a macro level? We read what the economists and politicians are saying. Please share us your thoughts.**

**Big Picture Advocate**

Last Monday, we had a very passionate discussion on what can be done about the crisis. Our company is made up of a community of interdisciplinary experts. Many of their ideas made a lot of sense. Let me share with you the following views of Gus Arguelles, our expert on logistics and supply chain management.

"Let me briefly share my views on the nature of this crisis and how it is now affecting our nation. I will also comment on how we are responding to this crisis, and what else may be done to make the best out of the situation.

Over the years, our government has been spending more money than what it could raise from taxes and other revenue-generating measures. To meet this deficit without raising taxes, we keep borrowing money. This has increased our debt to a level where payments of interests and maturing principals are severely affecting our economy. Money better spent for providing services to our people is now channeled for debt servicing. Since new and drastic tax measures are also extremely unpopular and politically destabilizing, we are now engaged in austerity measures to reduce our deficits and borrowings. Lately, there is also a movement to ask the public to contribute for the expenses of the government.

## Key issues

You must have also read that at least about a third of our national multi-billion budget goes to debt servicing. This significantly reduces the amount of resources left for government agencies to deliver services to our people. After debt servicing and personnel services that runs to about a quarter of our budget, I presume that the balance goes to our expenditures for materials, supplies, services and infrastructure.

While our politicians and economists ponder on ways to raise money and reduce expenditures, I see two critical and immediate issues confronting all of us. The first is the optimization of scarce remaining funds for the delivery of services of the various government agencies. The second and equally critical issue is corruption that drains not only our limited resource but also our moral dignity.

At this point, any response directed to saving on expenses and increasing revenue without taxation is most welcome. There is tremendous emotional and political pressure towards actions some of which may result in long-term consequences that we may regret. For example, there are moves to cut down on training, compensation, manpower, travel, and other expenses. All of a sudden everyone is an expert on how we can raise money or cut down on expenditures.

## Consequences

We, in the private sector, experienced the same scenario during the financial crisis of the 80s. There were cutbacks in expenses, manpower and anything management could get their hands on. Some of these moves had long-term effects on the competence and competitiveness of the company. For example, cutbacks on training always hurt the long-term capacity of the organization. I always tell my clients that if you find training expensive, try ignorance. In the area of compensation, there is a saying that 'If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.' We also learned that for cost reduction to be long term and effective, it must be recurring and permanent. Changes must be made in the way we operate in manufacturing an item or in delivering a service. Otherwise, costs reduced due to mandates and 'flavor-of-the-month' campaigns always creep back when the pressure is relieved.

Manpower reduction is always dramatic and shows the seriousness and resolve of the organization to cut costs. There is no better time than now to seize the present opportunity for government units that are overstaffed and inefficient. This can produce long-term savings provided that the position is not replaced by consultants or outsourced and that other positions are not created now and in the future. Manpower reduction, however, is always painful and controversial even with generous separation packages. It demoralizes not only those laid off but also those remaining behind. This is particularly true if the change causes the survivors to work much harder without additional compensation. There are also great political and social consequences. Unemployment adds to poverty and social discontent. It produces potential problems such as crimes and makes people easy prey to dangerous ideologies.

Another traditional and dramatic response to the crisis is spending restraint. Again, any effort is always welcomed. Aside from the great possibility of expenditures creeping back when nobody is watching, indiscriminate cost-cutting across the board always hurts the organization. In the public sector, this usually results in reducing the delivery of services. Translated into operating terms, this means less books, classrooms, teachers, medicines, doctors, etc. When this is carried unreasonably, it compromises the accomplishment of the mission of the government agency. And most unfortunately at all, it does not address the issue of good governance and corruption.

## Cost-cutting

In the private sector, manpower costs usually contribute a small portion of the total product or service package cost. Our biggest items of costs are almost always on materials and supplies. I believe that this is also true in the public sector. Personnel services are likely to be less than the costs of materials, supplies, services purchases and infrastructure projects. When we embark on our cost reduction and continuous improvement programs in the private sector, we therefore focus on the area of greatest costs namely purchased materials and services. It comes to no surprise when the annual recurring materials cost savings can be equivalent to the annual payroll of an organizational unit. It comes also at no surprise in my experience with the private sector that my buyers or purchasing agents are some of the most sought members of a cost reduction or methods improvement team.

## Supply chain

Having discussed the above premise, I therefore propose that we focus our national efforts on the purchasing or supply chain management processes of various government agencies and departments. Efforts in this area produce more pesos with less hassle, 'blood and tears' when compared to efforts in the manpower area. I believe that it will squarely address the two critical and immediate issues namely that of optimizing scarce resources and the issue of corruption and governance. Corruption after all is associated with the procurement process, therefore a focus on processes, structures and competences and most of all values will address this issue.

There is much to be said about the competency and professionalism in the supply chain management system. The private sector is not even immune to these shortcomings. While procurement is

EFFECTIVE/ B5

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# How does an old person survive in a young person's workplace?

**WORKING WOUNDED**

*Bob Rosner*

DEAR WW: I'm really frustrated. I've got 25 years of experience in business. I get plenty of interviews, but I can't turn them into any job offers.

This Dog's Ready For New Tricks

Every older worker (and let's be clear here: we're talking anyone over 40!) needs to learn a lesson from the Warrawong Shopping Center in New South Wales, Australia. To combat the gangs of teenagers that were hanging outside the mall, mall owners installed pink fluorescent lights above each entrance. Sure, it looked a bit cheesy, but pink light accentuates the bumps and pits of acne. So long, bad-skin set!

Unfortunately, many employers have pink fluorescents out for older workers. They've got a lot of misconceptions about the over-40 crowd, and, if possible, stop you at the door without even asking any questions. Your job, therefore, is to rout those misconceptions by deliberately shining the spotlight on your own experience-driven skills. The tips below should help. Also check out Jean Walker's book, "Age Advantage" (Berkeley, 2000).

Can you demonstrate that you're techno-literate? Young people often think that we old geezers don't know a modem from remote. Prove 'em wrong. Go into interviews with your Palm out (not that palm, your PDA!), your e-mail address on your business card, and stories about how you've used technology to solve problems in your previous jobs. Heck, don't limit your tech experience to the job—one 71-year-old friend has met a string of great dates online!

Can you demonstrate that you're current on issues in your industry? Young guns often think that older folks are out of date. Prove 'em wrong. Talk up current trends in your industry. Cite recent articles you've read in your industry journals. Go to an industry conference and mention something you heard on a panel. And do an online search of the company, its industry and its competitors.

Can you demonstrate that you're ready to work hard? Some young whippersnappers think the over-40 crowd are one long lunch and a nap. Prove 'em wrong. Research the companies you're interviewing, then go into your interviews with ideas. Tell them how you'd tackle some of their issues; tell them how you handled similar issues in the past; talk with passion and animation that will demonstrate the energy you'll bring to the job.

Are you willing to confront the salary issue head on? Older workers are often more expensive and that turns some employers off. Tell 'em they may be wrong. Ideally, you've shown them you're worth every penny you want above your previous salary. But if money is the final obstacle between you and a hot new job, consider offering them options. For example, can you start with a lower salary and performance targets that will trigger a bonus? And there are always options in lieu of cash.

Don't let age-ism keep you out. Use the tips above to cast yourself in the best possible light. Then, hopefully, you'll find yourself in a new job—AND in the pink.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which song title best describes the challenge of getting a job as an older person?

—Easy, 15.7 percent
—Easy to be hard, 15.7 percent
—Easy and slow, 63.3 percent

*(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

# Effective procurement can be a solution to fiscal crisis

From page B4

the biggest area that organizations spend their money, it is usually the least area of attention in terms of training, development and even compensation. No wonder, we are getting what we deserve. Purchasing technologies now provides us opportunities for win-win solutions with the suppliers. Aside from cost effectiveness, we will also get the benefit of improvements in quality, response time and agility for our products and services.

## Proposed steps

What should be, therefore, our next steps? If we have operations improvement teams and continuous improvement programs, we should redirect their focus towards this area. If we don't have mechanisms for continuous improvement, we should immediately organize these teams, train and empower them to go for recurring savings in materials and supplies.

Change our paradigms on purchasing and supplier management from a clerical or commercial activity to a strategic effort. Re-engineer our supply chain structures and processes, and improve our staff competencies.

Superior procurement structures and processes with professional people imbued with the right values will reduce if not eliminate the drain of resources coming from corruption and bad governance. Then, we can realistically hope for sustained total lower procurement costs that will mean getting more books, classrooms, medicines and services even with reduced budgets."

Thank you, Gus for sharing with us your thoughts on the matter. Thank you, Big Picture Advocate for your letter as well. We hope the information given will be very helpful for all of us affected by the looming fiscal crisis. With that, I wish you good luck and God speed!

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting.* *Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

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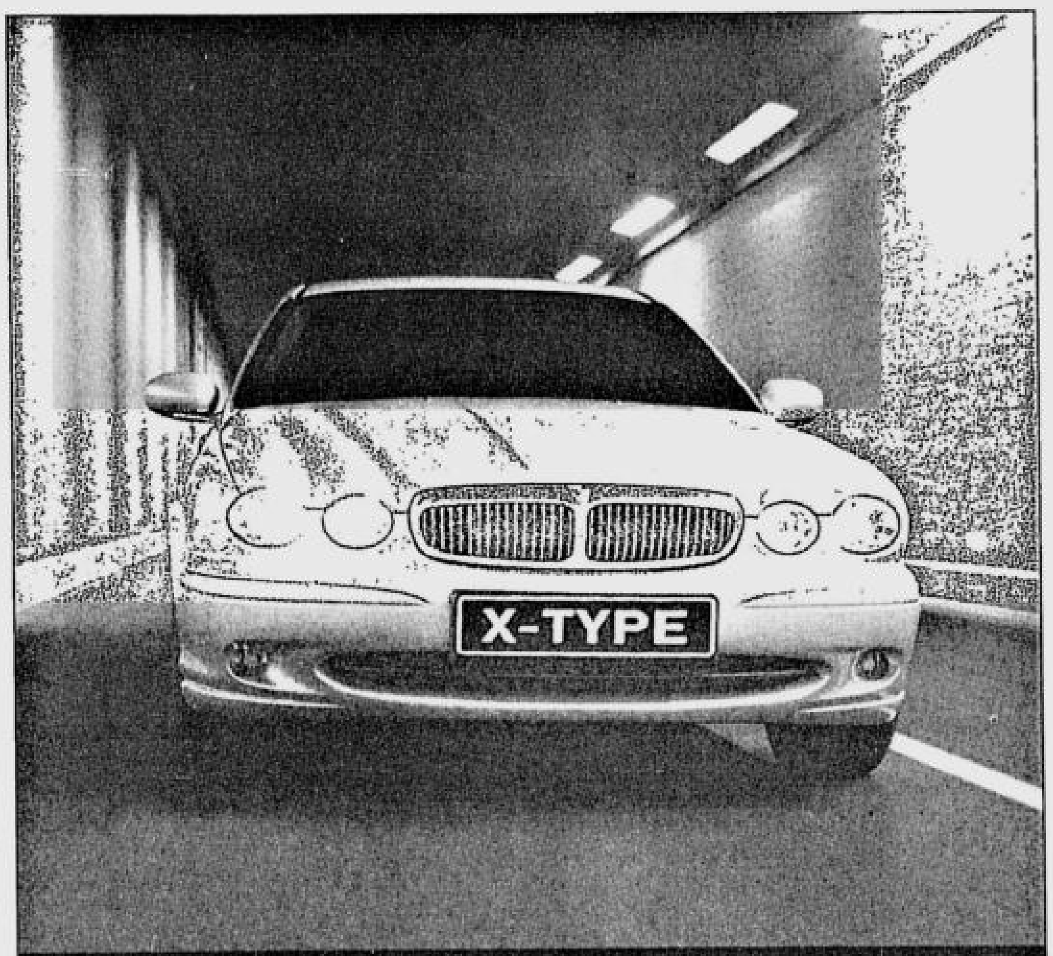

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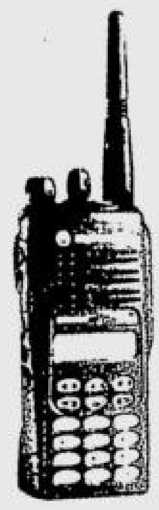

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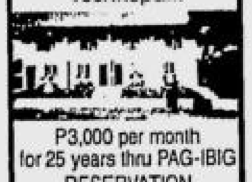

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### CARS

#### HONDA

'94 CIVIC HB 63T Km Full Maintenance Record P220T Neg For Cash 7462767 / 09175210417

'97 Civic LXI A/T 931-9873

#### MERCEDES

MB 260E 0916-3293489

#### MITSUBISHI

RUSH SALE LANCER GLXI SPORTY LOOK Floaded 2727813

#### TOYOTA

RAV4 '96 P435T NEG 3DR MATIC RUSH! 284-1837

#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Trooper Prado Surf Land Cruiser Space Gear Delica Serena Town-Lite Ace Safari Terrano Estima Vantette Elf Canter 4-6W etc Trade-In Finance Warranty 9120647 09178342020 Glenn

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

Benz Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CAR VANS 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

NISSAN ESC. STAREX 8276605

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS GIE 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

G RET PUPS 6830677

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL Trains w/K9 Pschology Tel. 721-3736

### WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY
'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Mkti 893-0618 • G'hills 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES. BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

### MISCELLANEOUS

45x75 Bed Side Table Desk Clothes P18T 634-9500

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF CLOSURE
RE: Closure of representative office of BALtrans Holdings Limited (the"Company") in Manila, Republic of Phils. Please be informed that the management has decided to close the Manila office of the Company. The decision was made to in line with the change of the company's strategy. Instead of maintaining a representative office in Manila, the Company decided to appoint a liaison agent in Manila to take over the role currently assomed by the representative office in Manila · THE MANAGEMENT (PDI-Sept. 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late MYRNA B. COLORINA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc No. 143; Page No. 30; Book No. 99; Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Raul R. Olpindo of Marikina City. (PDI-Aug 25, Sept 1 &8.2004)

Notice Is Hereby Given That The Flexi Savings Account Of The Late Artacnan J. Diaz At UCPB Un Ave. Branch Was Extra-Judicially Settled Among His Heirs Before Notary Public Atty. Israel E. Peren Of Manila Per Doc. 342, Page No. 69, Book No. 22, Series of 2004 PDI-September 8, 2004

### NOTICE OF LOSS

14,500 Bacnotan Consolidated Industries, Inc. shares with Certificate No.34268 registered in the name of Maria Isabel G. Ongpin have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI- Sept.1,8,15, 2004)

2,400 Manila Electric Company shares with Certificate No. 73654 registered in the name of Elaine O. Herbosa and/or Maria Elena Sanchez ATF Ongpin Children have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI- Sept.1, 8 & 15, 2004)

Lost alien certificate of registration issued to Dayaldas Pribhdas by Bureau of Immigration on July 9, 1996 MNL(PDI-July 7-11, 2004)

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A team of Entrepreneurs will be visiting Bohol,Cebu&Makati to introduce an Int'l Business model that's expanding fast.Text bk @ 0919-8967737 to Reserve

BE AN ENTREPRENEUR. START YOUR OWN AGENCY NOW W/O CAPITAL! 0919-8691481

Cal.USA&HK relatives friends? Build network 0920-9112910

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

EARN P10T up/week - HOW? share d bisnez 0921-5914739

Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

JOIN TOP MLM CO.-FQ Invest wisely 0926-2634343

Need Xtra Income P/F Time 7126374

RTW Consign 09167940002

Looking 4 Enterprising Pple frm Davao/Mla who want to earn Income from S 'pore & Usa Join our Int'l franchising Biz Appl 09275374741

PHARMACY - CONVENIENCE STORE w/coffee shop good location in Mkti nr banks, church, condo ofcs 8906380 / 8955532 Heidi

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMALE

HAIR DRESSER FEMALE SM MEGAMALL 0917-8398638

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705554

SALES PROMO GIRLS White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272690

### MALE

AIRCON
TECHNICIAN
EXP IN WINDOW & PACKAGE
TYPE 4272680 / 4286800

WANTED DRIVER 8950075

### MALE/FEMALE

Immediate Hiring: Contact Joyce • 0917-8353019 Cooks, Waiters, Bartenders

JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Urgent Math Teachers
Whiz Kidz Tutorial Center
59Bayan-Bayanan Av. beside Jollibee Molave,Concepcion Marikina Call 934-1739

Wanted Exp. Cook 8074128 09195521961 Call CHIT

WANTED
EXPD. Make-UP ARTIST
For Mannequins
SALES EXECUTIVES
For Mannequins
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Apply in person at
292 J.A. Santos Little
Baguio San Juan Tel.
7240346 Look for Engr. Tan

NOTICE OF LOSS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CERTIFICATE NO. A-2198 FOR ONE (1) PROPRIETARY SHARE OF THE VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. ISSUED TO SOTERO H. LAUREL WAS LOST.
(PDI-Aug 25, Sept. 1 & 8, 2004)

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CAMP JOHN HAY
GOLF CLUB

## NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Dear CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB MEMBERS:**

Please be advised that the Annual Membership Meeting of Camp John Hay Golf Club, Inc. scheduled on **17 September 2004** has been postponed to such a date to be announced by the Board later as the Club wants to include in the agenda items necessary for compliance with Code of Good Corporate Governance.

Makati City, Metro Manila, September 2, 2004

**MA. ROMELA M. BENGZON**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – Sept. 8 & 13, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) is inviting all interested, duly registered qualified persons, natural or juridical, to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposal for the **"NLRC Case Management System (NLRC-CMS)"** project.

The project is for the design, development and installation of computer-based solution and network systems (including the supply of hardware, peripherals and networking facilities and conduct of appropriate training) that would store, process and maintain a repository of all cases filed with the NLRC and its regional branches, such as critical case information details (eg. nature of the case, parties involved, case status and case disposition details), adjudication reports and searchable data base of all labor laws, rules, regulations and jurisprudence that shall be made available to authorized users' online.

The approved budget for the contract in the amount of Thirty Nine Million One Hundred Two Thousand (P39,102,000.00) pesos, *excluding* the cost of internet connectivity, is sourced from the E-Government Fund (Sec. 68, General Provisions, R.A. 9206). The winning bidder is expected to complete the project in eight (8) months from notice to proceed.

All interested parties are invited to submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to, and procure the list of eligibility and short listing requirements from, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) – Secretariat. Bidding documents, including the terms of reference, shall be made available only to eligible bidders. For any inquiry, contact Emilio G. Santos, BAC Secretariat Head, tel. no. 7817871; fax no. 7407733; e-mail address:info@nlrc.dole.gov.ph or nlrcmis@yahoo.com.

All bidders shall be subjected to eligibility and short-listing procedure approved by the BAC.

The determination of the winning bidder shall be based on the Highest Rated Bid upon evaluation of the technical proposal using the "quality-based evaluation selection procedure" and the Highest Rated Responsive Bid in accordance with the provision of R.A. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) and its implementing rules.

Schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

| Activities | DATE | TIME | PLACE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deadline/Opening of Eligibility and Short-List Requirements | Sept. 15, 2004 | 10:00 AM | BAC Secretariat c/o Admin Division |
| Availability of Bid Documents* | Sept. 15, 2004 | During office hours | BAC Secretariat |
| Announcement of Short List | Sept. 23, 2004 | 10:00 AM | 6th Flr., Conference Rm. |
| Pre-Bid Conference | Sept. 24, 2004 | 10:00 AM | 6th Flr., Conference Rm. |
| Deadline/Opening of Bids | Oct. 6, 2004 | 10:00 AM | 6th Flr., Conference Rm. |

* Upon payment at the NLRC Cashier, 6th Flr PPSTA Building 4, Banawe cor. P. Florentino Sts., Q.C. in cash or cashier checks, payable to the NLRC, of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php 5,000.00).

NLRC reserves, for justifiable reasons, the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, refuse to award the contract, or accept the offer most advantageous to the government. It also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate/indemnify bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of bids. Prospective bidders are required to conform and observe the provision of Republic Act 9184 and its implementing rules

(Sgd.) ATTY. APOLLO X.C.S. SANGALANG
BAC Chairman

NOTED:
(Sgd.) Ambassador ROY V. SEÑERES
NLRC Chairman

(PDI – September 8, 2004)

## FOR SALE

**STL SCAFFOLDINGS GENERATORS TOWER CRANES IH TRANSIT MIXERS CONCRETE PUMPS CONST. ELEVATORS SKID LOADERS**
**TADANO and P&H cranes**

*Call Jho Tel # 7253716/7244413*

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Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building EDSA Greenhills Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| IN THE MATTER OF<br>FLASH FINANCE CORP: | APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY |

### NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of R.A. No. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located in Consolacion, Cebu.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Authorized Capital Stock | P 40,000,000.00 |
| Subscribed Capital Stock | 10,000,000.00 |
| Paid-up Capital Stock | 2,500,000.00 |

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

| Name | Position |
|---|---|
| Peter A. Yap | Chairman-President |
| Yok A. Yap, Jr. | Director/Vice-President |
| Lily V. Tan | Director/Treasurer |
| Nelson C. Arendain | Director |
| Jocelyn L. Magpily | Director |
| Jiselle Anne B. Velayo | Director |

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippine once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicious place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. No. 8556, the Implementation Rules and Regulation and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.

August 24, 2004

(Sgd.) JUSTINA P. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 15, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
Branch 24
Cagayan de Oro City

GONZALO GO,
Plaintiff
– versus –
ENGR ELIEZER B. VILLAROSA,
Defendant.
x - - - - - - - - - - - x

CIVIL CASE NO. 2003-083
for: SUM OF MONEY etc.

### ORDER

Upon motion, let the judgment of this case be published in a newspaper that will win in a raffle conducted by the Office of the Clerk of Court. The newspaper must be of nationwide circulation because defendant is not residing in Cagayan de Oro City.

SO ORDERED

GIVEN IN OPEN COURT this 9th day of July 2004 in the City of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

(Sgd.) LEONARDO N. DEMECILLO
Presiding Judge

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
Branch 24
Cagayan de Oro City

GONZALO GO,
Plaintiff
– versus –
ENGR ELIEZER B. VILLAROSA,
Defendant.
x - - - - - - - - - - - x

CIVIL CASE NO. 2003-083
for: SUM OF MONEY & DAMAGES

### DECISION

This treats of a complaint for sum of money and damages filed by plaintiff, thru counsel, against defendant.

This case was originally raffled-off to Branch 23 of this court but it was forwarded to this sala on March 21, 2003, upon motion of plaintiff, for consolidation with Criminal Case No. 2002-379 entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Engr. Eliezer B. Villarosa" for Estafa earlier filed with this court.

Summons was then issued on March 31, 2003 but it was returned unserved for the reason that defendant was no longer living at the given address.

On April 24, 2003, plaintiff filed an ex-parte motion for leave to serve summons by publication which was granted in an order dated June 9, 2003. Summons was then served by publication in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in its July 1, 2003 issue.

On September 17, 2003, plaintiff filed a motion to declare defendant in default for failure to file answer and to set hearing for reception of evidence of plaintiff ex-parte. It was however denied in an order dated September 19, 2003 for failure to comply with Section 19, Rule 14 and Section 3, Rule 9 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

Instead of filing a motion for reconsideration, plaintiff filed a motion for ex-parte hearing on December 16, 2003. On December 24, 2003, plaintiff filed a manifestation of compliance with motion to declare defendant in default and reception of evidence ex-parte. All of which were not given due course.

Finally, on March 1, 2004, plaintiff filed a motion for reconsideration to the September 19, 2003 order which the court, finding same meritorious, granted in an order dated March 10, 2004 and defendant was hereby declared in default.

Plaintiff, upon motion, presented his evidence ex-parte before the Branch Clerk of Court.

The facts as established in the allegations in the complaint and evidence of plaintiff consisting of the oral testimony of plaintiff, himself, and documentary exhibits "A" to "H" and their sub-markings, inclusive, are as follows:

Sometime in 1996, defendant purchased from plaintiff construction materials worth P814,263.11. In payment, defendant issued plaintiff check worth P814,262.11 but it bounced due to "No Sufficient Funds." Plaintiff, then, thru his lawyer, sent him demand letter to pay but he failed. Hence, the filing of the criminal case for estafa in 2002 and this complaint in 2003.

In connection with the filing of this case, Plaintiff incurred P8,538 for filing fees, P15,230.00 for publication fee, attachment bond which he secured in crime case no. 2002-379 in the sum of P8,681 and P100,000 as attorney's fee. In addition, he suffered sleepless nights and embarrassment as an aftermath for which he seeks indemnification in the sum of P100,000.

The evidence of plaintiff was not countered by defendant he having been declared in default for failing to file answer. Thus, this case is decided solely on the basis of plaintiff's evidence although the court may temper or equitably reduce the award of attorney's fee and damages vis-à-vis the attendant circumstances.

However, perusal of the record of the case of estafa shows that the court has not acquired jurisdiction over the person of the accused, he being at large until now. Hence, it cannot be jointly heard.

WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered in favor of plaintiff and against defendant ordering the latter to pay plaintiff the sum of P814,263.11 plus 12% interest per annum from the filing of this complaint until fully paid, there being no written agreement as to interest, P50,000.00 only as moral damages P25,000.00 as attorney's fee considering that this case was heard ex-parte and P23,763.00 for litigation expenses.

SO ORDERED

ISSUED this 28th day of May 2004 in Cagayan de Oro City

(Sgd.) LEONARDO N. DEMECILLO
Presiding Judge

(PDI – September 8, 2004)

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More Classified Ads on page B2

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## COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

Pasay City

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES

Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041

**One (1) Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II (Committee Secretary) Item No. 43-3 SG 24-1**

**Q.S.:** Bachelor's degree in relevant Social Science course. Four (4) years of relevant experience, Twenty-four (24) hours of relevant training in technical writing, editing and proofreading. Proficient in technical and administrative writing e.g. business correspondence, minutes of meeting, resolutions, reports etc.; has systematic and procedural skills for multi-tasked work atmosphere; strong team player; has great attention to details; behavioral flexibility, willing to work under pressure to meet tight deadlines and demonstrates initiative; conscientious and provides follow through on all areas of responsibilities and Career Service Professional eligible.

**One (1) Legislative Staff Officer VI (Field Investigator) Item No. 38-1 SG 22-1**

**Q.S.:** Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, Four (4) years relevant experience, twenty four (24) hours of relevant training, computer literate and Career Service Professional eligible.

**One (1) Legislative Staff Officer II (Audio Visual Officer) Item No. 100 SG 16-I**

**Q.S.:** Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, Experience in operation and maintenance of sound system preferred and Career Service Professional eligible.

Previous applicants need not apply.

**Send Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 colored picture to:
Commission on Appointments, 6F PNB Financial Center,
Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City.**

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## PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO. (632) 712-3341 TO 54 FAX NO.: (532) 712-1110 E-mail www.nfa.gov.ph

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of Various Laboratory Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center as follows:

| | Equipment/Item | Quantity | Total Approved Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. | CHEMISTRY SECTION | | |
| 1. | Sample Concentrator with Dry Block Heater | 1 | P 273,000 |
| 2. | Ultrasonic Cleaner, Long Bed | 1 | 150,000 |
| 3. | Kjeldahl Distillation Unit & Accessories | 1 | 900,000 |
| 4. | Muffle Furnace | 2 | 740,000 |
| 5. | Refrigerated Circulator | 1 | 165,000 |
| 6. | Thermohygrometer | 4 | 70,000 |
| 7. | Adjustable Volume Pipettor | 2 | 40,000 |
| 8. | Analytical balance | 1 | 220,000 |
| 9. | pH Meter | 1 | 100,000 |
| 10. | Elisa Reader and Accessories | 1 | 500,000 |
| B. | MICROBIOLOGY SECTION | | |
| 1. | pH Meter | 1 | 250,000 |
| 2. | Compact Panel Mount Thermohygrometers | 3 | 52,500 |
| 3. | Laboratory Cart | 2 | 100,000 |
| 4. | Dispensette | 4 | 100,000 |
| 5. | Pipette Jars | 3 | 30,000 |
| 6. | Pipette Washer | 1 | 25,000 |
| 7. | Chlorine Test Kits (1 set) | 1 | 35,000 |
| 8. | Hepa Filters for Clean Bench | 13 | 260,000 |
| 9. | NIST, Traceable Thermometer -1 to 101 C | 1 | 20,000 |
| 10. | Pipettor | | 96,000 |
| C. | QUALITY CONTROL | | |
| 1. | Thermometer reader w/ Penetration probes | 3 | 60,000 |
| 2. | Infra-red Moisture Meter | 1 | 135,000 |
| 3. | Chlorine test kit (w/ DPD reagent tablet) | 1 | 25,000 |
| D. | PHYSICAL AND SENSORY | 2 | 60,000 |
| 1. | Electronic Laboratory Top Loading Balance | 1 | 100,000 |
| 2. | Thermocouple Thermometer Recorder | 1 | 35,000 |
| | or Meter with penetration probes | 2 | 60,000 |
| 3. | Metrological Weight Set | 1 | 80,000 |
| E. | TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION | | |
| 1. | Analytical Weights, Class E2 | 1 | 240,000 |
| 2. | Standard Weights, Class F1 | 1 | 100,000 |
| F. | SHELF-LIFE TESTING | | |
| 1. | Glass Dessicator | 2 | 92,000 |
| G. | THERMAL PROCESS | | |
| 1. | ASTM Glass Thermometer | 1 | 35,000 |
| | | TOTAL | P 5,088,500.00 |

**The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:**

| | |
|---|---|
| September 8 - 22, 2004 | Submission of Letter of Intent, Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements including issuance of bid documents |
| September 23, 2004 (10:00 AM) | Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Flr., NFA |
| October 5, 2004 (10:00 AM) | Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA |
| (9:00-9:45 PM) | Submission of eligibility requirements and bid proposals |
| (10:00 AM) | Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals |

Eligibility requirements maybe secured from the BAC Secretariat, 10th Floor Matimyas Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of Letter of Intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to prospective bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, non-refundable fee. Any eligible bidder can bid for one or all of the items. For further inquiries, you may call at Tel. No. 712-6815 (Roger) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8925.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC
Administrative and Support Services

(PDI – September 8 & 15, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
BLDG. #6, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND, RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ,
1003 MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-8301 LOCAL 1601; Website address: www.doh.gov.ph

August 29, 2004

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Health (DOH) received financing from the Commission of Information and Communication Technology's e-government fund for the automation of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), wherein twenty million pesos (P20,000,000) has been earmarked as approved budget of contract (ABC) for the "Development and Implementation of an Automated Solution for the BFAD."
2. The DOH hereby invites firms with the expertise and at least 3 years experience in project management, systems engineering, systems improvement and information system and web development and implementation to apply for eligibility and for shortlisting. Interested bidders may download requirements from the DOH website or inspect the bid documents September 3, 2004, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Further information may be obtained from the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Secretariat namely, Ms. Coney Liberan/Ms. Debbie Rabi at 1/F Building 6, DOH, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz Manila, Tel. No. 743-8301 local 1214 or 1601 respectively or send an e-mail to **csliberan@co.doh.gov.ph** or facsimile to 711-6061/711-8273.
3. A complete set of bid documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of *non-refundable fee* of five thousand pesos (PhP5,000). Deadline for the submission of eligibility & shortlisting requirements is on September 17, 2004 at 10:00 am.
4. Major components of the project includes, system engineering, system and software development of the BFAD integrated information system and website, scanning and indexing of licensing documents, identification of additional hardware and software required, training and systems implementation and maintenance.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on September 27, 2004 at 2:00 pm at the COBAC Conference Room. Only shortlisted consultant will be invited to submit a proposal not later than October 22, 2004. The proposal shall be evaluated using a quality-cost based procedure at 60/40 weight in favor of technical. Only technical proposal with 75% rating will be finally considered for evaluation. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for ninety (90) days equivalent to 1% of the ABC if in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft confirmed by a reputable local bank or 1.5% if in the form for a bank guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank.

*The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and/or reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.*

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – September 2 & 8, 2004)

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## National Power Corporation

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
### NPC-PSD-2004-11

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

| SCHEDULE | ITEM/DESCRIPTION | PR NUMBER | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 1, 2004; 9:00 AM** | | | |
| 11A1 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS & EQUIPT, DETAILED ENG'G. FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM OF PB 101 UNITS 1-4 FOR EXHAUST GAS TEMP. MONITORING & OTHER VITAL PARAMETERS | PB1-04-109 (NY) | P 5,000,000.00 |
| 11A2 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS & EQUIPT, DETAILED ENG'G. FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM FOR MGE'S 1-4 EXHAUST GAS & RESISTANCE BULB MONITORING SYSTEM | PB4-04-238 (ZC) | P 5,000,000.00 |
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 1, 2004; 2:00 PM** | | | |
| 11B1 | COLORED PLOTTER / PRINTER, SOFTWARE UPGRADE, ARCGIS SPATIAL ANALYST & ENVIRONMENTAL VISUALIZING INSTRUMENT (ENVI) | OWMD-04-105 (ID) | P 1,000,000.00 |
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 4, 2004; 9:00 AM** | | | |
| 11C1 | INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE/LOCAL AREA NETWORK (PB3) | 1MCF-02-476 (JP) | P 6,300,000.00 |
| 11C2 | RECIRCULATION VALVE FOR BOILER FEED PUMP W/ ACTUATOR AND ACCESSORIES (PB2) | 2BCF-04-408 (JP) | P 5, 265,000.00 |
| 11C3 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE PARTIAL RETUBING OF BOILER ECONOMIZER (PB3) | 2BCF-04-271 (NY) | P 15,000,000.00 |
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 4, 2004; 2:00 PM** | | | |
| 11D1 | VACUUM CIRCUIT BREAKER | 2BCF-04-575 (NY) | P 6,600,000.00 |
| 11D2 | VARIOUS RECORDER CHARTS | 2BCF-04-505 (NY) | P 1,091,200.00 |
| 11D3 | SUPPLY SERVICES FOR THE ACID CLEANING OF UNIT #1 BOILER, INCLUDING ENGINEERING, SUPERVISION, MATLS, SUPPLIES, INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY FACILITIES W/ TOOLS & EQUPT. | 2BCF-04-407 (JP) | P 12,500,000.00 |
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 6, 2004; 2:00 PM** | | | |
| 11E1 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE REPAIR OF DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE MONITOR (PB2) | 3TPM-04-011 (JP) | P 1,600,000.00 |
| 11E2 | COOLING TOWER GEARBOX | 3BAC-04-617 (RP) | P 4,250,000.00 |
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 7, 2004; 9:00 AM** | | | |
| 11F1 | GAUGE, TEMPERATURE, SURGE-SUPPRESSOR TYPE (PB2) | 5PGP2-04-020 (LS) | P 1,872,000.00 |
| 11F2 | MOTOR, INDUCTION, TYPE: SQUIRREL CAGE | 5PGP2-04-036 (LS) | P 3,289,500.00 |
| 11F3 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE RETROFITTING OF STATION TRANSFORMER CIRCUIT BREAKER AT LGPP & TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING CIRCUIT RATED CAPACITY OF 1200 A TO 1500 A (PB2) | 5LGP-04-185 (LS) | P 3,000,000.00 |
| 11F4 | ELIMINATOR, DRIFT, TYPE: CELLULAR, TU 12X | 5LGP-04-262 (LS) | P 7,600,000.00 |
| **DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 7, 2004; 2:00 PM** | | | |
| 11G1 | J.O. SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS, TECH'L SUPERVISION IN THE REPAIR & INSTALLATION OF HOTWELL PUMP MOTOR VENTILATING DUCT OF MAKBAN PLANTS A & B | 3MGM-04-182 (ZC) | P 6,000,000.00 |
| 11G2 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & TOOLS, EQUIPT & TECH'L SUPERVISION FOR THE APPLICATION OF HIGH VOLTAGE INSULATION COATING (HVIC) AT MAKBAN PLANTS B&C SWITCHYARDS | 3MGM-04-202 (RP) | P 5,500,000.00 |
| 11G3 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE REHAB OF UTILITY AIR COMPRESSOR OF PLANT C & UNIT NO. 2 INSTRUMENT AIR COMPRESSOR | 3MGM-04-234 (RP)<br>3MGM-04-255 (RP) | P 2,000,000.00<br>P2,000,000.00 |

Note: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11A1 – 11A2 | Sept. 17, 2004; 9:00 AM | 11E1 – 11E2 | Sept. 22, 2004; 2:00 PM |
| 11B1 | Sept. 17, 2004; 2:00 PM | 11F1 – 11F4 | Sept. 23, 2004; 9:00 AM |
| 11C1 – 11C3 | Sept. 20, 2004; 9:00 AM | 11G1 – 11G3 | Sept. 23, 2004; 2:00 PM |
| 11D1 – 11D3 | Sept. 20, 2004; 2:00 PM | | |

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non refundable fee of PHP 500.00 per schedule starting on **September 8, 2004. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by other NPC officers will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

**CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC**

(PDI – September 1 & 8, 2004)

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UNDP

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

***Contracting of a Manufacturer / Supplier to Supply and Installation of the 20 kWp Photovoltaic (PV) – 20 kW Diesel Generator (DG) Hybrid Power System, including instrumentation controls and necessary protection in Barangay New Ibajay, El Nido, Palawan
under the Project "Renewable Energy-Based Village Power System (Project ID 00033498)***

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and international manufacturers and/or suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and installation of the 20 kWp Photovoltaic (PV)-20 kW Diesel Generator (DG) Hybrid Power System, including instrumentation controls and necessary protection in Barangay New Ibajay, El Nido, Palawan under the project "Renewable Energy-Based Village Power System (Project ID 00033498)".

The project aims to demonstrate the viability of a small-scale renewable energy service company (RESCO) as a delivery mechanism to off-grid area and operated on a "fee for service basis", and the abovementioned procurement is one of the component activity under the project.

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Three Thousand (PhP 3,000.00)**, from the following address:

**Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier)
Tel. No. (632) 892 06 11 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816 40 61 / 893 2610**

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from **September 9 to September 22, 2004 only.** The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules and requirements.

All prospective bidders are required to conduct **ocular site inspection** on **September 23-25, 2004**. A Certificate of Site Inspection from the Barangay Chairman, duly noted by DOE and UNDP, shall be issued thereafter. A **pre-bid conference** shall be conducted on **September 27, 2004, 2:00 PM at the UNDP Office**. All terms, conditions, specifications and related matters will be discussed during the pre-bid conference.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 9, 2004)

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# OBITUARIES

**RATE**
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

**DEADLINE**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

## ANITA SINGIAN LAZATIN

**Born on July 26, 1918**

*Peacefully joined our Lord on September 6, 2004*

Her bereaved brothers and sisters **Cristino** (†), **Ester Rivera** (†), **Corazon Pecson**, **Remedios Panlilio** (†), **Consuelo Madrigal** (†), **Jesus** (†) and **Carmen**; and her nephews and nieces, grandnephews and nieces, and great grandnephews and nieces and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family's ancestral home in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at the San Fernando Catholic Cemetery, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the CWL Free Clinic - San Fernando Unit will be most appreciated.

---

Our Dearly Beloved

## Amador Panesa Orense

*Peacefully joined our Lord on September 6, 2004*
*at the age of 74.*

Loving husband of **Lucia S. Orense**, Cherished father of **Raymond** and **Liza**, **Victor** and **Jowee**, **Angie** and **Bobby Dolendo** and Beloved grandfather of **Gino**, **Ricky**, **Pocholo**, **Stella**, **Alexa** and **Andrea**.

His remains lie in state at Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Mount Carmel Church.

---

*Our Dearly Beloved*

## DR. MANUEL CIFRA ALINAS

**UST College of Medicine Batch 1987**

*Peacefully joined our Lord on September 6, 2004*
*at the age of 52.*

His wife **Evelyn**; loving children **Ian**, **Aiza**, **Carmi** & **Beatrice**; parents **Paquito** and **Cely**; brothers & sisters **Mel** and **Moppette**, **Ralph** and **Susan**, **Beth** and **Bobbit**, nephews & nieces **RG**, **Ryan**, **Michelle**, **Mickey** & **Gibby** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment schedule will be announced later.

---

*"On This Day O Beautiful*
*Mother,*
*We Give You Our Love"*

## Chona Tañada Roxas Silos

*December 6, 1937 – September 8, 2003*

**Today, the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, her beloved family commemorates the 1st year of her passing**

Husband : **Nardi Silos**

Children and Grandchildren :

**Ramy, Bo, Alex, Lean, Ramby, Joshua and Jonah Roxas**
**Randy, Lindy, Nikki, Tea and Matti Roxas**
**Monty, Tina, Julian, Alyssa, and Andy Roxas**
**Jojo and Rica Roxas**
**Kim, Sonia and Gabriela Silos**
**Miguel Silos**

Sisters : **Myrna, Millette** and **Tessie**

Brothers : **Tits, Bobby** and **Learny**

Deceased loved ones : **Lorenzo, Expedita, Andy, Gregg and Nats**

A special Mass will be held at the Family Crematorium in Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 3 p.m. today.

We, her family, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

---

## Patricio (Pat) Pe-Aguirre

of
Binondo, Manila; San Fernando, La Union;
and Cervantes, Ilocos Sur

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on September 5, 2004 at the age of 60.*

His beloved parents **Jose** (†) and **Teresa** (†), wife **Lolita**, son **Paul**; brothers **Filemon** and **Ramon**; sisters **Leonora**, **Emiliana** and **Magdalena**; mother-in-law, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Cattleya Funeral Homes, San Fernando City, La Union.

Interment will be on Friday, September 10, 2004 at the Lingsat Cemetery, after an 8:30 A.M. Mass at St. Williams Cathedral.

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## AMADOR P. ORENSE

**Retiree of Distribution Division**
**United Laboratories, Inc.**

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on*
*September 6, 2004 at the age of 74.*

His body lies in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Hemady St., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at the Loyola Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"For God so loved
the world,
that He gave His
only begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish
but have
everlasting life."
John 3:16

# OBITUARIES

*"Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful."*
**Psalm 116:15**

## ENGR. CRISTINO V. LAUREL

**of Talisay, Batangas and Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City**

Son to Virginia V. Laurel and Joven C. Laurel (†). **Husband** to Tessie. **Father** to Miko, Lissa and Christine, **father-in-law** to Anna. **Kuya** to Willy and Evic (†), Cholo and Ditas, Cecil and Ruben, Manny and Gigi, Ike, Ruth and Popo, Angeli and Rico and Catherine and Che. **Cousin, uncle, brother Knight** (KofC), **employer** (CV Laurel Construction), **colleague, friend, neighbor, classmate, witness to God's love and miracles. His precious servant.**

Our dear **Cris** was welcomed to a glorious homecoming in God's Kingdom last September 05, 2004. He was 56. Prepared and peaceful.

His human remains lie at the **LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque** (inside the Manila Memorial compound). His immortal soul celebrates in bliss with the Almighty God in heaven.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

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**"Once you have snatched me from death kept my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living."**

Psalm 56:14

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*On this, the 8th day of September, 2004,*
*the first month anniversary of the tragic demise of*

## CONG. NESTOR C. PONCE, JR.

*his loving wife **Evangeline L. Ponce,***
*his children **Jan Abigail, Nestor III** and **Maita Angeli***
*his mother **Honorata C. Ponce***
*and all his brothers, sisters, in-laws and relatives*
*wish to THANK all of those who*
*in their own special way, generously extended,*
*and who continue to offer their condolences,*
*comfort and support to ease the pain in their time*
*of immeasurable grief.*

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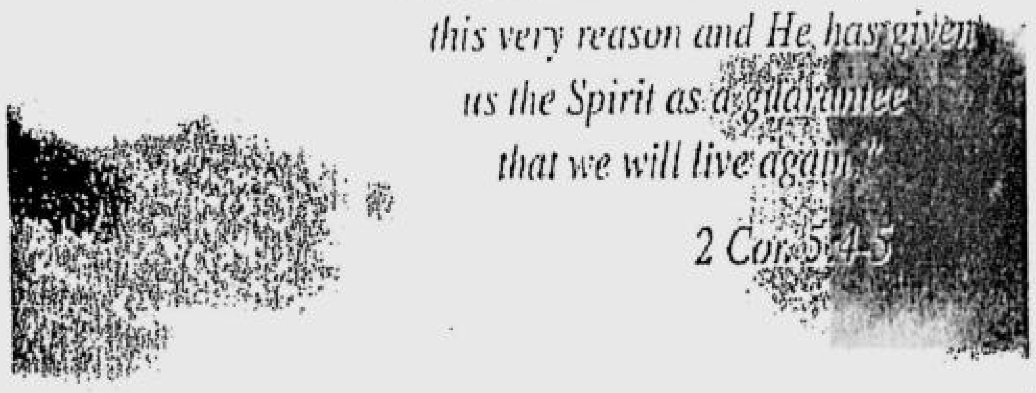

*"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."*

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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*"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
**John 11:25-26**

## JAIME LIM TEE

*Peacefully joined his Creator on September 4, 2004*
*at the age of 91.*

His bereaved wives **Rosita Yu** (†) and former **Mayor Vicky Lao Lim** of Gasan, Marinduque; children **Lily** and **James** (†) **Ting, Alice** and **Samson Kho, Jane** and **Samson Tung, Jimmy** and **Jinky, Aida** and **Tony Chan, James, Jervina** and **Tasos Kousloglou, Hon. James Marty, Jaivic** and **Denise, Jacqueline** and **Yannick Loaëc,** and **Hon. Jaime Jasper** together with all the grandchildren, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Necrological services will be held immediately after the 6:00 p.m. Mass on Thursday, September 9, 2004.

Interment will be on Friday, September 10, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque. Will depart at Arlington at 8:00 a.m.

***In lieu of flowers, the family will greatly appreciate your kind donation to Jaime Lim Tee Foundation, Inc.***

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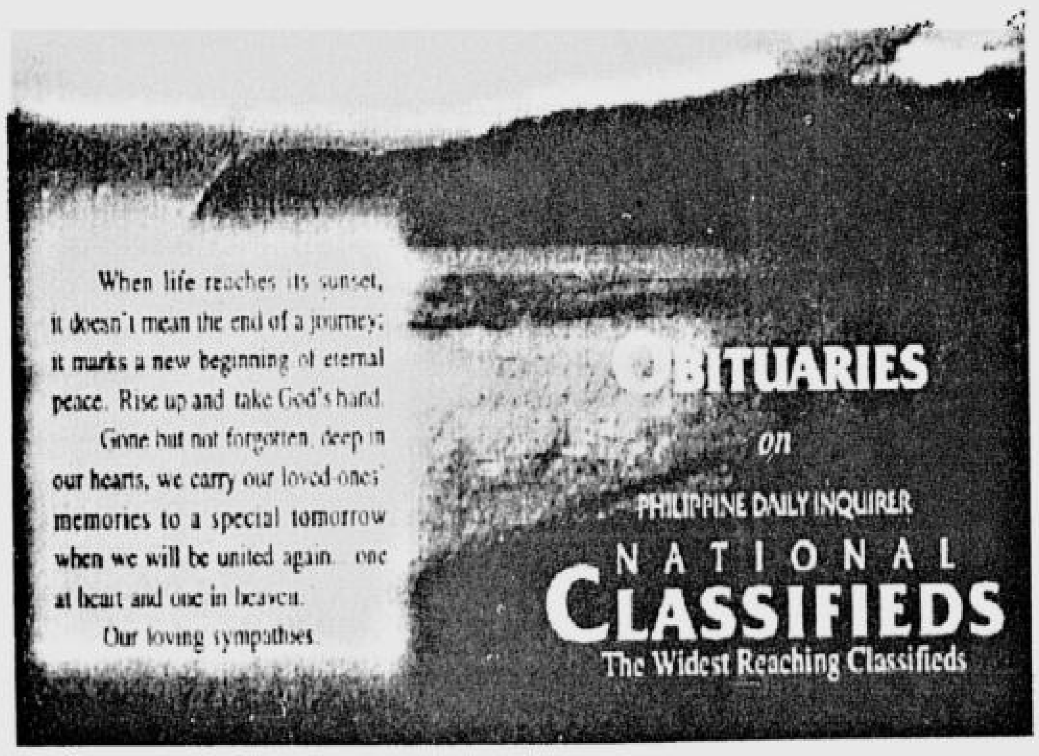

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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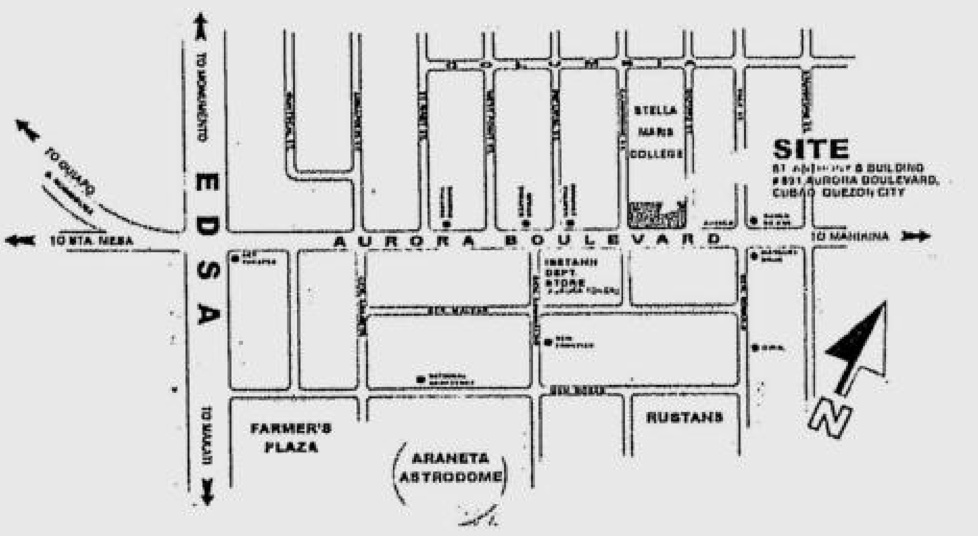

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RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Cotabato
Region XII
OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Annabelle Sunio Buenaflor has filed with this office a petition to change of first name from Ma. Annabelle to Annabelle in the birth certificate of Ma. Annabelle Ortizo Sunio who was born on February 5, 1946 at Poblacion New Lucena Iloilo and whose parents are Aniceto Poblador Sunio and Gregoria Ortizo.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than 17 September 2004

(Sgd.) SUSAN GULANI-DUMAMA
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – Sept. 8 & 15, 2004)

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**POEA 24-HR HOTLINES**
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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
**PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA**
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

Tender No. 27th RP-JFPP/2002/2004

### INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids from Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) registered farmer cooperatives whose members are engaged in rice production for the sale of 10,785 metric tons of Ammonium Sulphate and 8,593 metric tons of Urea Fertilizer both in bags for December 2004 shipments.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting September 10-16, 2004 from BAC Secretariat, NAFC upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on September 14, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at NAFC, 4th Floor, Luzon Conference Room, Department of Agriculture Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on September 16, 2004. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For inquiries, please contact Engr. Alexander S. Daroya at Telephone Nos. 929-82-34 and 920-17-88.

(Sgd.) CARLITO P. FERNANDEZ
Deputy Executive Director

(PDI – September 8 & 9, 2004)

# BUSINESS

## Napocor rate hike backed

SEVERAL business leaders have expressed support for the Energy Regulatory Commission's decision granting National Power Corp. (Napocor) a provisional authority to adjust its rates by an average of 97 centavos per kilowatt hour.

Former Energy Secretary Francisco Viray said the provisional authority given to Napocor "is a step in the right direction even if it may just be a small step in a long journey towards getting the power generation sector back in shape."

Viray also said the subsequent rate adjustments by power distribution utilities "is something we all have to face in exchange for the certainty of power supply in the medium-term, and for a more modern power sector in the long-term."

Philippine National Bank president Lorenzo Tan said the move was a positive signal to the financial community as it underscored the government's resolve to address a major financial issue.

Consumer Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion also backed the increase although he was "disappointed that the rate increase granted is substantially lower than the (Napocor) petition (of P1.87 per kilowatt hour rate adjustment)."

The Association of Stock Analysts of the Philippines (Asap) saw the ERC decision "as a boost to the capital market, since this is a sign of a stronger resolve on the part of government to put the financial house in good order."

Asap director Astro del Castillo said "it is important that the government gets rid of the Napocor headache once and for all in order to invigorate the investment environment in the country."

## Gov't sees lower-than-projected public sector deficit in 2005

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE COUNTRY'S consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) next year is expected to reach only P216 billion, down from the original projection of P253 billion, in view of the recently approved hike in National Power Corp.'s rates.

Napocor has the biggest deficit among government-owned and -controlled corporations, so that any improvement in its financial condition will reflect on the country's CPSD position.

During yesterday's Senate inquiry on the government's fiscal plan, the Senate committee on ways and means said that based on its computations, the CPSD would hit only P216 billion or 4.2 percent of the country's expected gross domestic product (GDP) because of the rate hike.

Without the Napocor rate hike, the CPSD is expected to reach P253 billion next year or 5 percent of GDP.

The Department of Finance confirmed the accuracy of the computations.

The ways and means committee, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, is conducting a hearing on the fiscal plan to determine whether the Arroyo administration's tax measures are appropriate.

Napocor's budget deficit is expected to hit P115 billion by the end of this year. But with the 98-centavo rate hike, Napocor was estimated to generate about P37 billion in additional revenue.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio, who is in charge of monitoring the GOCCs, said during the hearing that Napocor and the finance department were expecting the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to approve another rate hike before the end of the year to grant in full the original rate of increase sought by Napocor.

Napocor had proposed a rate increase of P1.87 per kilowatt-hour, but the ERC approved only 98 centavos.

The CPSD is expected to reach a little over P180 billion or 3.6 percent of the country's GDP if a second rate increase will be approved.

Under this scenario, the government will be able to achieve its medium-term target of reducing the CPSD to only 3 percent of GDP ahead of the schedule.

The DOF said the rate hike was necessary to help Napocor ease its budget woes, which impact on the government's already precarious financial condition.

Napocor is the single biggest liability of the national government, which committed to absorb the power firm's P500-billion debt to help reform the country's ailing power sector.

The DOF said helping Napocor solve its budget problems would make the government solve its own fiscal woes, a move that would benefit the economy in the long term.

However, the ways and means committee challenged the government's economic team to prove its claim that a power rate hike would be better for the economy in general.

Committee member Sen. Manuel Roxas II said during the hearing that the rate hike could make the country more unfriendly to businesses, considering that it already has the second highest electricity cost in Asia (following industrialized Japan).

He added that power rate increases could force businesses to close or relocate to another country, like China.

"My fear is that we may only be looking at the problem with a fiscal perspective and not with that of the whole economy," said Roxas.

PHILIP Romualdez, president of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, and newly appointed Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Michael Defensor in a huddle during a welcome party for the secretary at the Wack Wack club house Friday. Defensor promised to help the chamber address the problems of the industry, particularly the small scale miners. ROMY HOMILLADA

## 2 IT firms to put up hubs in Dumaguete

**By Alex Pal**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—At least two companies that use information technology heavily have set their sights on investing in Dumaguete after discovering its rich human resource base and infrastructure.

SPI Technologies, a US-based pre-press company, has started recruiting Dumagueteños for its future base here.

Paul Hartley, operations director for SPI Publisher Services, expressed the company's intention to establish a production site in Dumaguete during a recent press conference at the Department of Trade and Industry office here.

As a pre-press company, the SPI Technologies employs over 4,000 business process outsourcing specialists in its nine production sites across Asia and nine project management and customer support centers across North America and Europe.

Hartley said the company was specializing in producing scientific, technical and medical publications for companies throughout the world, mostly in the United States.

Dumaguete, Hartley said, was chosen as a base for its operations because of its wealth of resources.

"The graduates of Silliman and Foundation universities are comparable with the best graduates in Manila," he said.

Of those who took the examinations for written English proficiency, SPI evaluators were "extremely surprised and excited" with the 50 percent passing rate among Dumaguete applicants, in contrast to the 25 percent passing average in Manila, Hartley said.

Hartley also noted that the academe and the government were also very supportive of the company's plans.

In the meantime, a company specializing in telemarketing and nationwide retail trading is now preparing the groundwork for the relocation of its domestic call center facility to Dumaguete over the next three months.

Harold Dick Ledda, a high school alumnus of Silliman and now managing director of Quantum Global Philippines Inc., said he was convinced about Dumaguete after learning of its fiber-optic network.

"I was told that this fiber-optic network had already been in place five years ago by the then Isla Communications Co., which was bought by Globe Telecommunications," Ledda said.

Fiber optics, he said, could greatly enhance their operations because they could operate one small call center on a single line. This fiber optic network, he said, which cost over $300 million, made Dumaguete stand out from all the other countries in the Philippines.

Ledda's company operates a call center for its telemarketing operations and nationwide retail business. This company sells fitness equipment, weight loss products, housewares and educational products.

## DA scales down '04 rice production target

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

THE RECENT spike in fertilizer prices is expected to significantly reduce the country's rice production this year.

The prices of petroleum-based fertilizers have increased by 129 percent to P800 per bag from last year's P350 per bag. This discouraged farmers from using the prescribed volume of fertilizers on their farms.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the department had scaled down its rice production target to a range of 14.03 million to 14.26 million metric tons from the original goal of 14.9 million metric tons.

The reduced use of fertilizers by the farmers, according to Yap, is seen to lower the yields of farms planted to palay this year.

This, he said, was further aggravated by the agency's inability to buy high-yielding hybrid seeds due to budget constraints.

Farms, whether planted to certified seeds or the high-yielding hybrid varieties, need urea and nitrogen potassium-based fertilizers.

Yap said the department was now consolidating local farmer's fertilizer requirements in order to make bulk orders from major producers like China and Russia.

The Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries, he said, were planning to negotiate as a group for their fertilizer purchases to avail themselves of bulk discounts.

Yap has also ordered the agency's regional offices to coordinate with local government units to encourage the use of organic fertilizers made through composting.

Agriculture officials who accompanied the President in her recent state visit to China have invited China's leading fertilizer manufacturer, SinoChem, to put up a plant in the Philippines.

"SinoChem agreed to study our market and the regulations governing the fertilizer industry," Yap said.

## 2-year T-bond rate up

REACTING to the rise in the inflation rate, banks sought higher premiums on long-term government securities, pushing the rate of the two-year Treasury bond by a significant 137.5 basis points to 10.75 percent.

"The market was apparently reacting to the government's inflation data, but we still kept the rate aligned with the secondary market levels," said Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola during yesterday's auction for the two-year debt paper.

The National Statistics Office reported on Monday that inflation rose to 6.8 percent in August, using 2000 as the base year, forcing the government to admit that the full-year inflation target of 4 to 5 percent was no longer attainable.

The government attributed the spike in inflation primarily to the rising oil prices in the world market. Oil prices have breached record highs in the past weeks, recently posting an average of $38.55 a barrel or higher than last month's $34.65.

Wary of the effects of inflation on their liquidity, banks showed strong appetite for the two-year T-bond to earn more from virtually risk-free government securities, but they also sought for higher yields.

Tenders for the two-year debt paper reached P5.675 billion, higher than the government's offering of only P4.5 billion.

In the meantime, Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, who attended the auction, confirmed to reporters that the government was planning to float about $750 million in bonds in the international market.

He said the bond float was intended to complete the $1.8-billion funding requirements of state-owned National Power Corp. for this year. *Michelle V. Remo*

### MANAGING CRISIS

## *PCCI focuses on creating opportunities*

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

BUSINESS leaders yesterday said the private sector would be of better help to the government if it created jobs and promoted livelihood programs, rather than donate money amid a fiscal crisis.

Noemi Saludo, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that while some of the group's members had pledged donations to help the government, PCCI's participation in addressing the crisis was more along the line of the administration's 10-point agenda.

"We are focused on creating opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises," Saludo said. "This is only appropriate since most of our members are MSMEs."

She added that PCCI mainly pushed for activities that allowed people to start their own businesses and create jobs in the provinces.

"One such activity is our Biztour program, and the parallel program 'Investourism' that we are working on with the government," Saludo said.

PCCI had earlier announced a five-point agenda, which aims to make five million jobs, bring in five million tourists in a year and ring up $5 billion in visitor receipts.

"We are calling on the big, city-based businesses to invest in development of tourism facilities in the provinces," Saludo said.

"This would give opportunities for people in the provinces to get jobs or start their own businesses," she added.

PCCI chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis said the business sector could show its concern over the fiscal crisis in ways other than actually giving money.

"We are not in the level of Argentina when it defaulted on its debts," Ortiz-Luis said.

He said one way for business groups to support the government was to cooperate in moves toward greater government revenue collection with new taxes.

"We have accepted that there would be new taxes. What we don't want are taxes that would worsen inflation, like a new tax on petroleum products."

But the official added that business groups wanted assurance from government agencies that sacrifices would be spread to all concerned.

"We want a demonstration that everybody is tightening his belt," he said.

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Get ready for a seven-page adventure. Live vicariously the story of a Pinay Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. Read the musings of a child of two countries. Get to know Javier, an R&B prodigy from Los Angeles. Receive the 411 on your favorite Asian pop stars. Analyze why Oriental horror flicks click. Check out the latest from this fashion-leaping French brand. And see if you can win a sponsored trip to Europe, courtesy of a future-perfect electronics company. Compass ready? Let's go.

# Diary of a Pinay Peace Corps volunteer

**By Pam Pastor**

A LOT of people born into the lap of comfort would be content to just enjoy a laidback and easy life.

But not Cristina Dela Rosa.

She abandoned her comfortable life in the United States for two years and found a new home in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer.

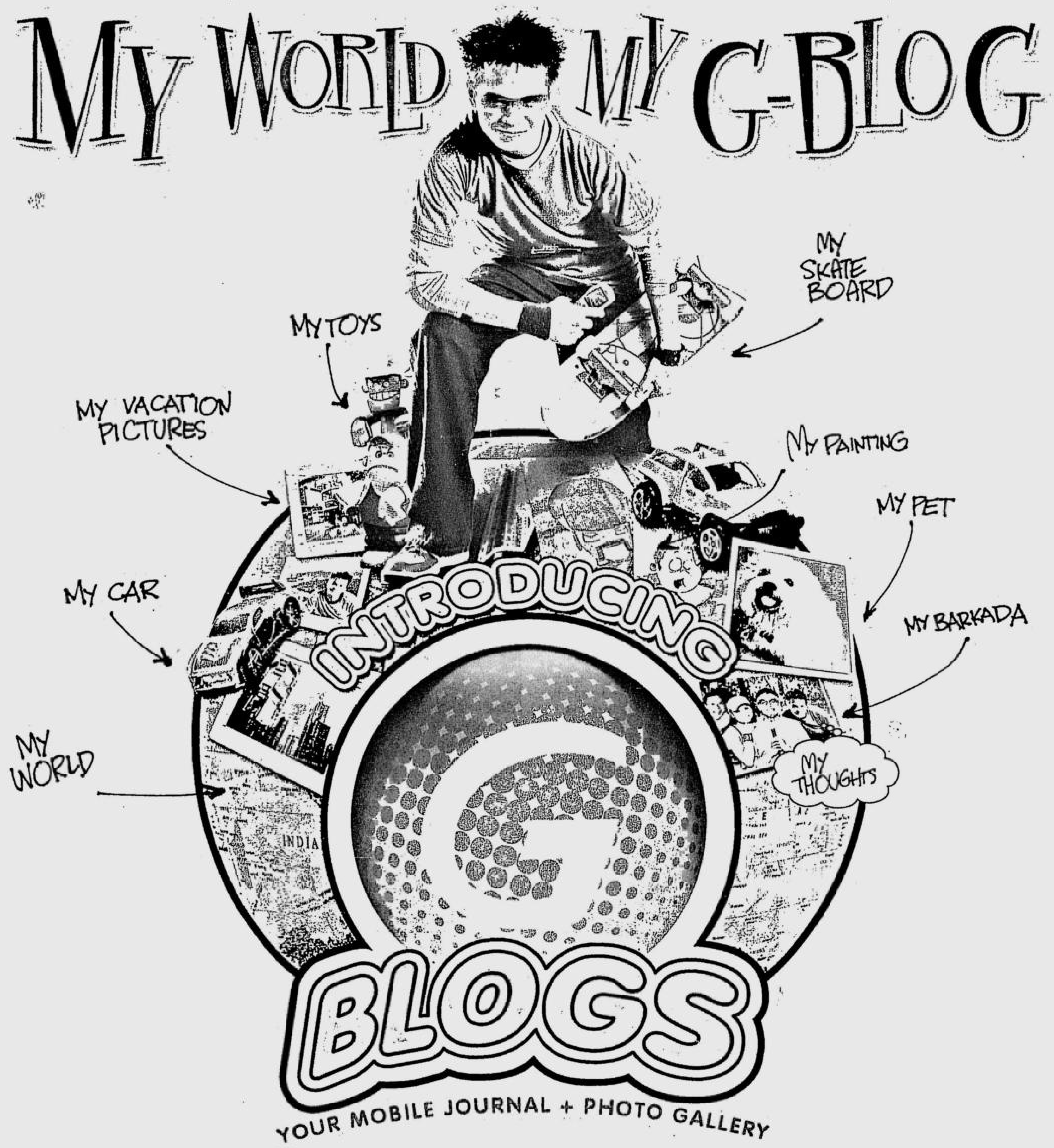
Born in Los Angeles to Filipino parents, hers was a happy childhood of good schools (she studied at Marymount, a reputable private Catholic school), piano and clarinet lessons and basketball games.

Passionate and zealous, Tina's drive to excel was evident early on.

She spent her college life at the University of California, Irvine, where she was part of the women's rowing team. Although she wanted to pursue her dreams of becoming a lawyer, she realized

DIARY/ C2

For two years, she was away from her family, had no electricity, no running water and had to bike 20 km to get a cold drink. But that didn't faze Tina Dela Rosa



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# Diary of a Pinay Peace Corps volunteer

From page C1

that she wasn't ready to plunge into post-graduate studies right after leaving the university.

## Inspired by a friend

A friend's example led her to another path during her junior year in college. "My friend joined the Peace Corps and left for East Africa to teach. She inspired me. I looked into it. After each thing I read, it just sounded better and better."

She spent a long time making her decision. "I'm gonna be selfish and say that I love to travel and see new things and try things out of the ordinary. I thought it was the perfect way to take a break, do something different, sharpen my language skills and dip my feet into the international sector and see how that feels for me."

But selfish isn't a word people would use to describe this twenty-five-year-old.

She has always been active in volunteer projects, tutoring inner city kids and working for At/Risk Youth, an organization that takes care of adolescent boys who are taken away from their parents because of neglect, child abuse and sexual abuse.

Given her background as a volunteer, her decision to apply for the Peace Corps shouldn't have been a surprise. In the beginning, her parents were apprehensive but Tina knew they would understand. After all, the giving spirit is alive in them as well. Her mom Becky, a nurse in the US, has projects of her own. "She is active in sending medical supplies to hospitals in the Philippines," her daughter says.

In her senior year at the university, she began her application. "I filled out a general application and sent that in. Then I set up an interview with the regional recruiter in Santa Monica, Los Angeles. He asked me about my job and volunteer experiences, why I wanted to go there, basically my whole life story," she recalls.

After the interview, the recruiter went through a file database from the Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington DC to nominate Tina for a position. "I was hoping to go to West Africa. I knew I could probably teach high school there," she says.

When she was nominated, Tina had to go through medical, dental and legal clearance. But that wasn't the hurdle. It was unfortunate that right after she sent her forms to Washington DC, the anthrax scare started. She had to resend everything. By the middle of January, her application was cleared. All she had to do was wait for the invitation to go overseas.

FRIENDLY FATAKO. The ten-minute walk home stretches into two hours because of easy banter between Tina and the market women.

## Fast goodbye

It came in April. Just eight days after receiving her degrees in Psychology and Sociology, at the age of 23, Tina began her journey. "I did as much research as I could on Guinea, I had to pack and say goodbye. It was really fast, almost too fast."

To many, the thought of packing for two years may sound like hell, but Tina had no problems leaving excesses behind. "You only need sandals and rubber shoes—that's all. You can get clothes there. I brought journals because I write a lot, I brought tapes and a Walkman, I brought a lot of pictures. It was mostly the pictures—it was important to show the people there my family and where I come from."

After her orientation in Philadelphia where she met 20 other Peace Corps volunteers who would leave with her, she was on her way to Guinea.

"It was raining really hard when we got there. Guinea is a very poor country, probably one of the poorest in the world. There's really no building maintenance, you see a lot of beggars on the streets. The whole setting was something I had never seen before—maybe just in a magazine. I was really wondering what I was getting myself into. I just couldn't say anything, I just stared."

Still, Tina took a head-on plunge into the training. "It took twelve weeks. Each person had to live with a host family. They helped you see the typical African lifestyle, they helped you get used to the food, helped you with the language."

Tina speaks French well but she soon realized that wasn't enough. "French is the national language but they have different dialects. I learned Pular. The best way to do it is throw yourself into a community," she says.

After the intensive training, that's exactly what she did.

"My assignment was in a little village called Fatako, which is eleven hours away from Conakry, the capital. I taught close to a hundred students—10th, 11th and 12th graders. I taught high school English grammar and conversation, I got them into writing."

But before she could actually begin teaching, she had to face another challenge. "One of my biggest problems was discipline. That was the barrier to getting things done. In the beginning, no one took me seriously. Discipline in the classroom was shot to hell. There were no other female teachers and I was the only one who wasn't African. The fact that I'm female and I'm short and that some of my students were older than me made a huge difference. I really had to figure out how I was gonna do it."

Tina had to get tough. "I figured I couldn't be nice anymore, I had to crack the whip. I had to raise my voice, I sent them out. It was really the only way to get any work done. They needed it to get into college—that was my responsibility. It worked."

## Back to basics

Adjustments needed to be made outside the school too. "In the beginning, it was very lonely, I didn't know anybody. There was no electricity, no running water. To get to the closest big city to go to the bank, the post office, use the phone and go online if the Internet was working, I had to ride at the back of a truck. It was a cattle truck but it's the way people go. The four-hour ride was very uncomfortable."

Because of the difficult ride, she only took the trip once every four to six weeks. The rest of the time, she rode a bike to get to other nearby cities. "During weekends, I would ride 15 km to visit my other American friends who were also teaching," she said.

The bike also came in handy when Tina needed the luxury of a cold drink. "If I wanted a cold soda, I had to bike 20 km from my house to a place where they had generators. But it was worth it."

Despite the major changes, Tina remained strong and determined. She held on to the things that helped her get used to what she calls "basic living." "They found me a house next door to an old woman who lived with her fourteen-year-old granddaughter. She kind of became my mom there. She cooked lunch for me every day. It was nice to have someone there."

Her monthly phone conversations with her mom were essential. And in faraway Africa, getting in touch with her loved ones played an important role. "Writing letters was one of the things that got me through. I must have written two hundred letters."

Soon, Tina grew accustomed to her life in Guinea. "The best times were in the classroom. Getting to know the kids was good. Teaching was the best part 'coz I really enjoyed it. If all else failed, the classroom was my domain. That's where I felt the most comfortable."

Her bed was a mattress on uneven planks and her toilet was not indoors, but she had grown used to life in Fatako. She spent her free time running, reading and writing. Days at Fatako ended early. "There's no point in staying up if you don't have light bulbs. I didn't want to waste candles so I'd be in bed by 8:30 or 9 if I was really tired."

In the friendly village, her ten-minute walk home from school stretched into two hours. "It's always nice to greet the market women who sit by the side of the road. I had to greet and chat with everybody."

Everyone knew Ms Tina, or Katija, as they called her outside the school. The women braided her hair. Little kids invaded her porch and she spent afternoons playing with them. "They were obsessed with crayons and coloring books."

She made good of her life in Guinea but it couldn't be denied that she also missed life in Los Angeles. "I missed my family. I also missed being anonymous. When you're in a village where everyone knows who you are, you just miss the privacy. I grew up in a big city and I missed that anonymity."

THE WORLD ON A WALL. It took Tina a month and a half to finish this world map.

## Christmas holiday

The people in her village do not celebrate birthdays or Christmas. Tina realized that the holiday season of her second year at Fatako was the perfect time to go home. "I went back to the US. I just really needed to see my family. Christmas is such a huge deal in our family. It's just what I needed. I was getting worn out. I needed a break," she says.

She spent three weeks at home. Leaving for the second time was harder but she knew what she had to do. "In the grand scheme of things, I had made Guinea my home for the past year so I said, Tina, you're going back to your house, your students, your school. And I had made friends. It had become an important part of my life. I had a job, a responsibility. I had to go back and finish what I started."

She returned with renewed zeal. There were more sacrifices to be made but she was ready for them.

Tina, who has been a vegetarian for eight years, had to eat meat for the people of Fatako. "They threw a party for me towards the end and they killed a chicken for me. If I didn't eat it, it would have been frowned upon. So out of respect, I had to eat it. I had just a few bites and then I said I was full."

Then there was the incident with the animals. "I had to leave my house for seven weeks to train some new teachers. When I got back, my house was full of animals. There were furry things, mice, frogs, spiders, insects." It took her three days to clear everything out.

As if patiently teaching the kids in school wasn't enough, Tina felt that she had to leave a tangible mark behind. "Less than two months before I left, I decided I wanted to leave something with them. Something not just for my students but for other people to see. I know a lot of people in the town haven't left that town. And if you don't leave your home it's hard to see where you are in relation to other places, geographi-

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# A tale of two countries

**By Sarah Bonifacio**
*Contributor*

I CALL the Philippines my mother, partly because it is our instinct to link the West with masculinity and the East with femininity, and partly because the Philippines raised me for the first five years of my life.

I draw from my earliest memory of her—the powdery smell of a woman's blouse; the roar of hard rain and the bustle of vendors; deserted railroad tracks and sly white lizards; my grandmother tucking perfumed handkerchiefs in my hand before I left for America.

But how can I be sure that my memories of childhood are valid, if to remember a thing is to imagine it, and to imagine is to challenge what is real? For once I arrived in America, the country I call my father, I became somewhat like Rose Campbell in Louisa May Alcott's novel, "Eight Cousins":

"Bad weather and a cold kept her indoors, and she spent most of her time in the library... Here she read a good deal, cried a little, and dreamed many of the innocent, bright dreams in which children find such comfort and delight. This suited her better than anything else, but it was not good for her, and she grew pale, heavy-eyed, and listless..."

In other words, I exchanged, and continue to exchange, life for books and action for nostalgia.

True, without imagination we would not be capable of repairing our bodies through various surgeries and devices; controlling our moods with this pill and that pill; or talking to each other from many continents away by tapping our thumbs a few times. Imagination fuels creation. Without it, the world would not exist, for the world itself had to be imagined, "required, as a necessity requires."

Idealization, however, is a form of imagination that leads to stagnation rather than progression. To idealize is to judge an object, a person, or a situation, to be better than it actually is. It allows us to escape, rather than augment, the horror or monotony of our surroundings. It is a destructive way of lying to ourselves.

America is my father, the Philippines is my mother. Though I may tend to one more than the other, I have an obligation to defend both

## Not a simple story

I understood this a few months after I returned from my family's first trip to the Philippines in December 2002. My three-week vacation is not a simple story. But, for the sake of time and space, we will pretend that it is.

Heat, night, sweat and noise were our first greeters out of the Ninoy Aquino airport. Then came a black van, our beaming aunt and uncles, and our driver. Soon we were breezing through Manila, driving on a long, broad road without stoplights. Billboards clouded the sky with faces advertising hair-straighteners, teeth-whiteners and fashionable clothing. Palm trees and acacia plants pulsated with lights and shimmering ornaments. Store fronts glittered with garlands; and even the squatters were lit up in their holiday best.

In the van, the air was wintry, and the radio played American pop songs. During our afternoon drives in the next few days, swarthy, emaciated men in tattered clothing would hobble over to our windows, selling bottled water or sampaguita flowers.

While riding a jeepney with my cousins, I held my purse close to my chest, as I was advised to do, and felt the hot wind graze my cheeks. But nipa huts, carabaos and impeccable rice terraces also glistened over the bridge to Caliraya.

For three weeks, we stuffed ourselves with breakfasts of *longanisa*, *tinapa* in olive oil, warm *ensaymadas* and smoky bold coffee. We skipped from one family reunion to another for talks, merienda, or dinners of steaming white rice, *cigarillas* and sans rival.

We sampled dirty ice cream and *sago* from kindly vendors; bought heavy bags of fresh lansones and rambutans from fruit hawkers; and bargained for stone jewelry from the Muslim women in Greenhills. We watched Tagalog films and treated ourselves to foot spas and massages in the malls around Makati. We let off firecrackers and feasted with old relatives on New Year's Eve.

## Without a tear

One would expect that I would have trouble leaving the country of my birth. But I left the Philippines without a tear. When friends in America asked how my vacation went, I shrugged, said "good," and left it at that. While my brother sulked for days wishing he were playing billiards or shooting hoops with his cousins in Quezon City, I told him to get over it, and then buried myself in schoolwork and the college newspaper.

Months passed, and I remained deathly cold. But I accomplished many things in spite of it: fine awards, straight As, and an editorial position in the college literary magazine. I realized, though, during a calm and free midnight in bed, that I felt nothing because I chose to feel nothing, because to feel something would be to feel pain.

And so, that night, I felt pain. I missed the Philippines. As Mary Shelley wrote in "Frankenstein," "There is nothing more harmful to the mind than a great change."

Indeed, my vacation was not like entering a museum in which the artifacts, no matter how static, seem to change every day, only because the viewer changes every day. In my case, the country changed, but I did not. A stubborn and irrational part of myself believed that traveling to the Philippines would be like returning to a childhood I idealized for 13 years.

Truth is, everything I dreamt, and continue to dream about my childhood, is an exaggeration of what it plainly is: over. I came to the country and realized, as though I had not realized it already, that my grandparents were dead. The playground in my grandfather's compound, whose swing set still creaks in my mind, has been replaced with a basketball court. And the white lizards now terrified me.

## Gift of coming home

But I was honest when I said, during a speech I gave on my birthday, that coming to the Philippines that December was a gift. For although the experience hurt me into heartlessness, it also pushed me to adjust my old perceptions of the world around me. I grew up a bit.

When I returned to the Philippines again this July, roads and faces had naturally changed, but now, at least, I could try to understand them.

In the Philippines, we middle-class Jerseyans are treated like royalty. Waiters will greet us humbly in every restaurant, pull out our chairs, and address us as Sir or Ma'am. It seems there are maids and butlers, nannies and drivers in households on every rung of the economic ladder. Families grin through blackouts and sudden losses of water.

Families, at least those that I know of, are intact. Also, the young are young: My cousins are more informed about the latest American movies and music than I am, for example. They know how to get around.

In America, especially in the East Coast, we are madly independent: We make our own meals, iron our own clothes and march to our own drummers. We have a purposeful, brisk and quick swagger. We are a masochistic group of people, always craving a caffeine fix and finding it hard—almost shameful!—to sit still.

Apathy, we like to say, is not an option. If we had to, we would run on a broken foot. After all, it is only through constant hard work that we achieve our machines of convenience.

Then again, these same machines will stab knives in our backs and twist them. At our best, we erect skyrocketing towers, bullet from here to there in high-powered vehicles, compose explosive artistic masterpieces, and use our abundant resources to help needy countries.

At our worst, we get fat and sad on our plush couches in front of the TV screen and watch our precious towers fall down.

## Act of imagination

I am not implying, of course, that one country is better than the other. I am only writing what I see. The question that I am afraid to answer, however, is: Why? Why do the rates of depression, obesity and heart disease soar high in a wealthy country; and why are there admirable moral values and strong family ties in a poor country? Is it not possible for a country to be ethically, physically and economically sound at once?

I don't know. But I believe that to ask why is an important act of imagination, for when we know why, we can know how; and when we know how, we can find exactly what we need to create in order to upturn, or improve, a dire social condition.

I might say that I refuse, when asked to render my experiences, to let my imagination interfere with what is real. But inevitably, I do. I must.

As I said, America is my father, the Philippines is my mother. Though I may tend to one more than the other, I have an obligation to defend both, especially since both are chiefly responsible for what I am and what I hope to become—which is, to rephrase James Baldwin, an honest woman and a good writer.

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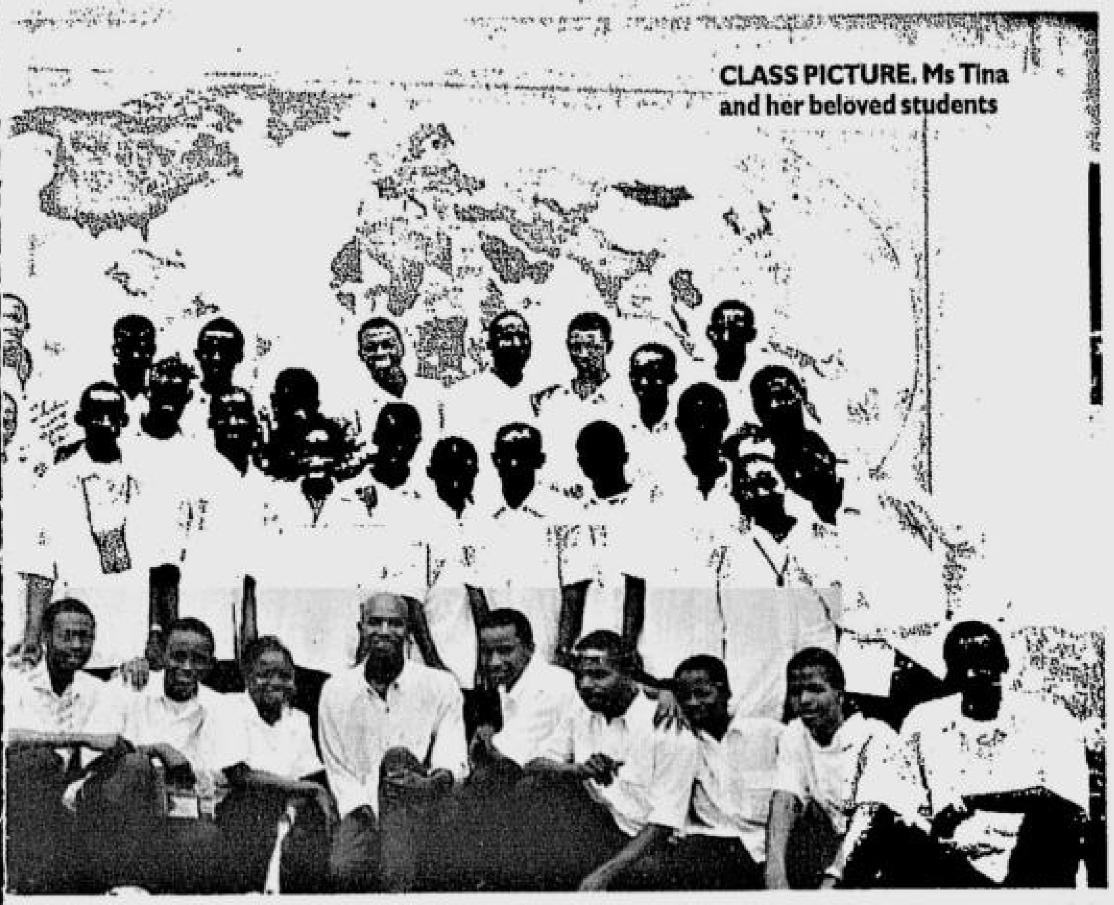

**CLASS PICTURE.** Ms Tina and her beloved students

and in every other sense."

e decided to create a world on a wall in the village. This ct is usually done by a group 'ina figured she could do it. vorked on it for a month and f, grid by grid. She finished x 2 1/2-meter map five days e she left. The hard work off.

was fun to point out where I 'rom. It was fun for my kids int out where they wanted to Maps, especially in a village that, generate interesting ersation," she says.

### ond home

June 2004, her contract the Peace Corps ended. Saying oodbye to Fatako was harder she thought it would be. "I . I didn't really expect that. I ttached without knowing it. le it home."

She realized that the place has had a huge impact on her. "It was definitely life-changing. It tested everything I grew up with, my principles, my values and what I believed in. It was such a tough thing. I consider myself a feminist and to see the treatment of young girls was hard. They break their backs when it came to work. Marriages are still arranged. A lot of the times, the husbands don't let them finish school. To see that kind of lifestyle makes me appreciate how I grew up, the opportunities given to me. It definitely makes you appreciate what you have. You see a side of life most people don't see—that was a valuable thing."

Her advice for other young people who wish to follow her example? "It's definitely worth it. It can get hard sometimes, it's challenging but you learn a lot about yourself. It helps you look at things differently, at a more global perspective."

After leaving Guinea, Tina started a four-month trip to different parts of Africa, the Philippines and Australia. She has great plans for the future. "I plan to enter law school within the year. I need to get a job so I could pay my way through school."

But first things first. "I'm really looking forward to catching up with my friends. It was hard for me not to know what was going on."

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.*

*We publish stories about young people and groups who are trying to make a difference. You can submit articles or send us suggestions at ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Because age is not a hindrance, it's a springboard for change.*

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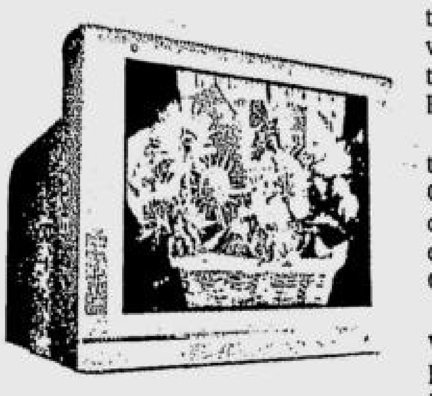
# Have doodad, will travel

**By Niño Mark M. Sablan**
*2bU! Correspondent*

Philips' 'Best of Europe' promo can send you and your favorite person on earth packing for pretty Paris, lovely London or amazing Amsterdam



IS THAT ho-hum lamp of yours starting to resemble disco lights? Is that bulky boob tube of yours turning out to be more of an unsightly *patungan* for all seasons? You still own and use a betamax player?

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Remember, the format is: Philips<space>store name/location/OR number/amount of purchase/first name<space>last name/address. Every text message sent for the raffle costs P2.50.

The service provider will send a reply message indicating how many raffle numbers you are entitled to. Official receipt numbers can only be sent once. Those who would try to send the same official number twice will receive the message: "Sorry the receipt number you entered has already been used, please check your receipt number and try again. P2.50 per SMS."

Those who send in the wrong keyword or incomplete messages will also receive warning text messages so they can check their message and text again.

### Lucky winners

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Just like in most, if not all raffles, winners can only win once. The prize with the higher monetary value shall be awarded. The Philips "Best of Europe" promo raffle draw will be held on Dec. 14 at the Philips office, 48/F PB Com Tower, Ayala corner Herrera Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

For prizes exceeding P10,000, the 20 percent prize tax will be shouldered by the winner.

So dart to participating dealers now and pamper your eyes and ears with a purchase of Philips products. Who knows, you might end up with a pleasure trip to Paris come December!

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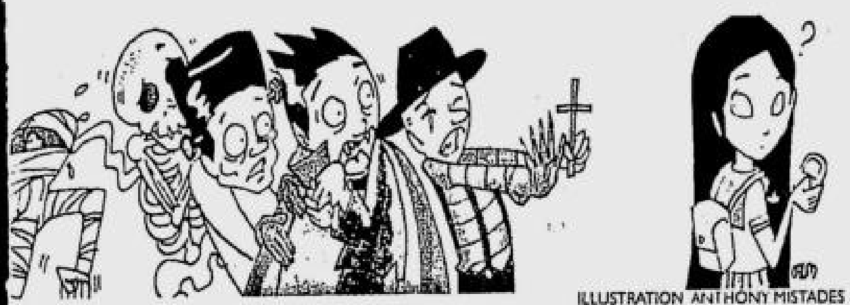

ILLUSTRATION ANTHONY MISTADES

# hocking Asia

### like Western slasher movies, Oriental horror
### ns impart much-needed mystique to the genre

**atherine Young**
*Correspondent*

HERE are three things you will never see or hear in Asian horror movies: monster chase scenes, al villains and bouts of screaming equire excellent lung power.

t there are also three things you lmost always see in Asian horror es: characters seeing dead people, eful spirits and long scenes of utter ce.

the world of Asian horror, the ng atmosphere provided by this already speaks for itself, nullify he need for press junkets and itened publicity before the film is lly shown. Somehow, we already what to expect when we enter neater, but a tantalizing shiver of ctability still draws us in.

### eal images

hat lures us to these often low eted movies? To surreal images Asakawa Reiko cradling the skull dako to her breast in "Ringu"? Or bony fingers of a decaying hand ing the face of Karena Lam in "In enses"? Or to scenes of a startling owdered white child in "The ge"?

analyzing Asian horror, it is logical back to the nature of Oriental cul which is heavily influenced by tra and folklore. Each Asian country its own version of Western rgeists, bogeymen and demons. he difference is that Western cul reats these as fairy tales to make ren behave and adults entertained. stern culture, particularly in the bs, treats these as a living part of specially in a culture that tena y preserves the old in spite of the of the new.

s this mix of tradition and moder hat makes Asia so mystifying and quently gives its horror movies eerie feel.

the "Ringu" series, a decades-old ises from dormancy and projects wer through a videotape. In "The e," another 'Dark Hair Ghost Sto e protagonist Ji-won is haunted obtaining a cursed cellphone er.

spite often ludicrous plots, what s these films watchable are the values that we have come to associate with Asia. Honor, revenge and filial piety are themes that permeate nearly all genres of Asian cinema, but in horror movies, these are also related to inhuman entities that are out to deal with unfinished business.

"A Tale of Two Sisters" and "Dark Water," for instance, mix human madness and family life. And while the former ended with nothing remotely supernatural about it, it is an interesting look at the dimensions of sisterhood, particularly the protective, almost manic, love of one sibling for another.

### Subtle terror

Blame the influence of *manga* for the still shots and close-ups, in comparison to the overtly kinetic scenes of Western horror movies that, one imagines, leave cameramen exhausted.

Like *manga*, Asian horror movies also tend to explore relationships and social psyche, even the humanity of evil. Perhaps this is why we somehow end up sympathizing with the character of Sadako, who, interestingly enough in "Ring O," is dichotomized into a beautiful girl and her deformed alter-ego—good and evil in one person.

It is also this stark contrast we see, whether it is between characters or between reality and fantasy, that make the genre far from obsolete. One American writer has observed that Asian horror movies are an outlet for transgression and excess in a culture that is heavily ordered and ritualized.

But perhaps, in a simpler way, what makes this genre work is how it equates something subtle with something sinister. Silence and vulnerability are efficiently developed into macabre plots, which may explain why a lot of these films contain the stereotypical 'innocent schoolgirl' in their characters.

The subtle way of slowly heightening the mood without the audience's knowledge eventually consumes us. Actors rarely need to scream, because it is the audience doing the screaming for them.

In the end, Asian horror movies play with our imagination to the extent that we also become responsible for what we feel.

*E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com*

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# Going Crazy over Javier

## The hot R&B soulster gamely bares his romantic, sensitive soul to 2bU!

**By Angela V. Ignacio**
*2bU! Correspondent*
**Photos by Richard Perez**

*"ITO ay para sa lahat ng magagandang binibini ngayong gabi,"* Javier intones carefully, hardly stumbling over the words. Then he looks at us for confirmation. Pink magazine's resident musicologist Joaquin Valdes and I both flash thumbs-up signs at him, and a triumphant grin spreads across his face.

We are having a late lunch-cum-interview with R&B's hottest prodigy to date, occasionally teaching him a few key phrases to woo the ladies in the audience, Pinoy-style. "Can't wait to use this one tonight," he says with a smile.

Javier had just flown in from LA for a two-night performance here in Manila, one in Greenbelt and the other in Alabang Town Center. This marks his second stop in Southeast Asia, following his stint in the MTV Asia Awards in Singapore last February.

With his smooth voice and ready smile, he could easily be the type of guy to sweep a girl off her feet. Add to that his sensuous lyricism, and he's definitely got ladies from different parts of the world going "a little bit crazy" indeed.

Javier candidly recounts his amusing encounter with a fan at a McDonald's branch here in Manila: "I had just come from golfing (yes, he's a diehard golfer) when a girl came up to me and said, 'You look like Javier.' 'Well, I am Javier!'... And she goes, 'I can't believe I'm actually talking to you!' Then she just sang 'Crazy' in front of me! That was priceless; you can't make that stuff up."

### Old-school roots

Javier's music serenades its way into a wide range of musical tastes, 'funkifying' old-school grooves with modern R&B beats, pop sensibilities and sweet balladry. He counts soul and R&B luminaries like Stevie Wonder, Brian McKnight, Donnie Hathaway and Mar

GOING CRAZY/D2

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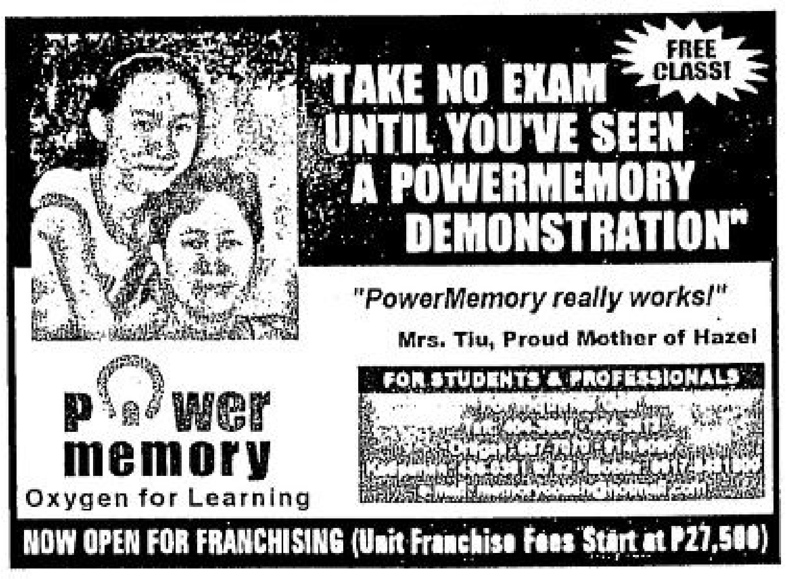
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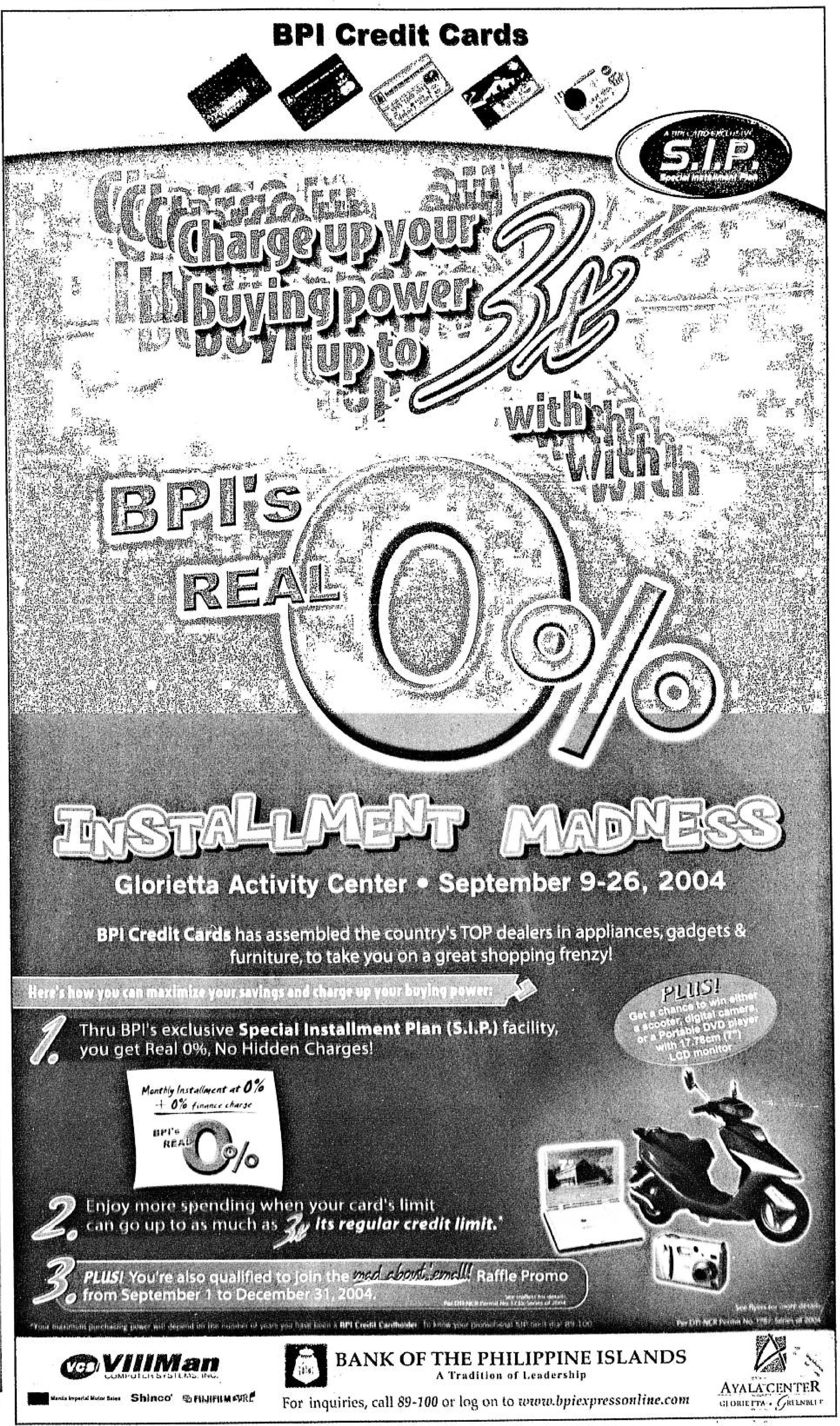
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2BU! FASHION FREAKS

# Playing with (giant) dol

We turne
dollhouse,
outfits tha

**By Pam Pastor**
**Photos by Randy Hormillosa**

FIRST, a confession.

We may have outgrown our love for swing sets, seesaws and slides, but we will always be little girls.

Yes, cartoon-watching, candy-loving, stuffed-toy-hugging, Mary-Jane-wearing little girls. We still like playing with dolls too—and our invitation to Kickers' Glorietta branch gave us the opportunity to dress up giant ones.

It wasn't a typical play date. After all, how many other little girls can boast of being able to get expert stylist Millet Arzaga to join in on the fun? Millet, who has collaborated with a number of established names in the fashion industry—from photographers and hair and makeup artists to art directors and models—and has done projects with the country's best glossies, helped us choose fun outfits that are fit not just for the mannequins, but for young urbanites who want a relaxed day.

Our afternoon at the store was one of fun, fashion and discovery.

Too bad we didn't get to bring home the dolls.

*Kickers boutiques are located at Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Shangri La Plaza Mall, SM Megamall Building A, SM North Edsa and SM Southmall.*

*Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.*

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**ROUND-NECK** T-shirt (P790), woven shirt with pleat (P1,490), five-pocket stone-washed denim pants (P3,890), vintage-looking Vinyl shoes (P4,990)

**SHORT-SLEEVED** tee (P1,990), wheat pants (P3,390), hibiscus bag (P1,690), pink shoes (P3,990)

**LONG-SLEEVED** st
(P3,290), regular-fi
(P2,590), vintage-lo
shoes (P4,990)

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# More F4

**By Nancy T. Lu**
*Contributor*

TAIWANESE boyband F4 is very much in the limelight. But the four stars of "Meteor Garden" are also shining as individual artists.

Vic Zhou is appearing in a new television drama series titled "War God." Barbie Xu is his co-star. Jerry Yan is promoting a new solo album. He took three years to realize this project. Ken Zhu is doing location shooting for "City in the Sky" for Central Broadcasting Network in China. Vanness Wu is producing his own album in the United States.

Vic Zhou, popularly known as "Zaizai," plays two brothers in the Chinese Television System's "War God." The drama explores the problem of split personalities. After completing the filming of the series with Barbie "Big S" Xu, he developed a keen interest in the study of human nature. Xu introduced to him a number of books on human psychology. Hence, he has been devoting his free time to poring over these thick volumes on psychology. Close friends revealed that he never worked this hard in school.

When not working, Zhou stays home most of the time. His agent, who calls him regularly, always finds him going online and playing video games. Only recently, he did a commercial for a milk product. His fee reportedly had eight digits in New Taiwan dollar.

## Paradise on earth

Ken Zhu, for his part, is spending days in a "paradise on earth" in a remote part of China. The landscape is fantastic. But the weather is unstable. Zhu has had to put up with both sudden heavy downpours and blistering days. Outdoor filming has meant grabbing a meal and relieving self wherever he found himself. Friends who wanted to visit him were discouraged by the prospect of having to travel one whole day to get to the shooting site.

Zhu plays a geographic magazine photographer in the drama. Off camera, he has developed real interest in photography. His agent helped him rent a vehicle to enable him to move more freely and do some personal filming. His fascination with the many cultural minorities in China drove him to do some homework beforehand. In fact, he can identify the colorful ethnic groups by just looking at their head accessories and costumes.

Jerry Yan, affectionately called "Hsiao Pai T'u (Little White Rabbit)" by fans, has been keeping a high profile to drum up attention over a labor of love—a solo Chinese album. The music is largely slow rock in style. He chose the 10 songs after going over 1,000 pieces, most of them emotion-filled ditties.

Yan worked on the album for three years. As he put it, "People have been so supportive of what I do. I work hard to show that I am not shallow."

Yan, mobbed by hordes of fans wherever he goes, says: "Fame has meant that the public places where I can go freely have become less and less. During my travels, I stay in my room most of the time. I read novels and get deeply engrossed, ending up feeling in love just like the characters. I also watch DVDs to while away my time."

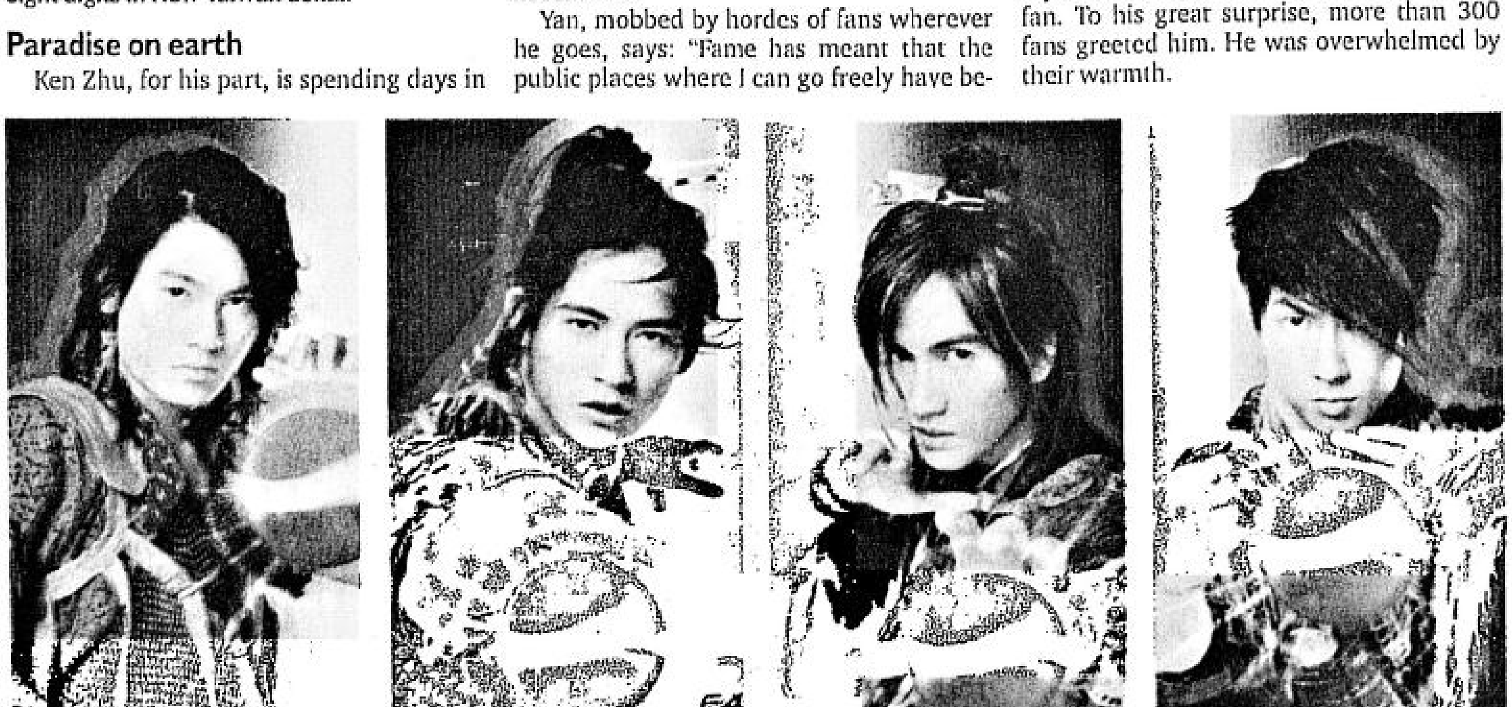
Yan recently went to Green Island to shoot a commercial for a jewelry label. He grabbed the rare opportunity to take a dip in the sea without the fans popping up to mob him. He just went in without even changing into swimming trunks.

## Bigger following

F4 fans in Taiwan have lately found the images of Jerry Yan and Vic Zhou on Pepsi bottles being retailed. According to a Pepsi executive in Taipei, the two stars enjoy a much bigger following than the other two—Ken Zhu and Vanness Wu. However, Wu appears on Pepsi bottles retailed in Hong Kong. Zhu's image has yet to be launched on a Pepsi bottle.

Vanness Wu is choreographing his own routine for his new album, which he is producing in the United States. His showmanship as a performer recently earned him an invitation to participate in an MTV show in Korea. Little did he realize the extent of his popularity in Korea.

A fan on the flight he took passed him a note, asking him to guess how many fans would welcome him at the airport. He replied that he did not expect to find a single fan. To his great surprise, more than 300 fans greeted him. He was overwhelmed by their warmth.



KEN Zhu, Vic Zhou, Jerry Yan and Vanness Wu appear separately and together in Pepsi ad campaigns across Asia.

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# Asian Youth Orchest

**By Walter Ang**
*2bU! Correspondent*

The bright beamir
faces of the young
musicians from a
over the region w
very inspiring

I'M ONE of the very few people I know who can mess up singing the Alphabet Song. This is probably why, after announcing to friends that I would be watching the Asian Youth Orchestra, I was met with a multitude of eyebrows rising to the heavens.

I smiled, asked them to tug their eyebrows back into place, and defended myself.

"Just because I can't sing doesn't mean I can't appreciate music," I said. So on a muggy Wednesday evening, I made a beeline to the Manuel Conde Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to catch the orchestra's second-day performance in Manila.

## Coming together

The Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO) is an annual six-week undertaking. Musicians from all over the region (namely China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) audition to win spots in the orchestra. Those who are chosen go through a three-week rehearsal camp under internationally renowned musicians and conductors. The remaining three weeks are slated for their performance tour.

Filipinos in this year's lineup include Maria Victoria Regalario and Maurice Ivan Saraza (violins); Ariston Payte III and Joven Tidon (double basses); Floyd Ricafrente (flutes); and Rodel Hernandez and Saturnino Tiamson (percussion).

Founded by Yehudi Menhuhin (musical director) and Richard Pontzious (artistic director and conductor), the AYO had already completed performances in China, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia this year, before arriving in Manila. The group will then move on to Hong Kong and end their rigorous 15th-anniversary tour with a four-city performance in Japan.

## Making music

For the first act, the orchestra performed Dmitri Shostakovich's Festive Overture and Richard Strauss's "Till Eulenspieg
Pranks." The pieces were light
reminiscent of Looney Tunes a
cartoons. The music had a differ
however, on my companion.

About five minutes into the fi
she leaned toward me and said, s
*"At nahawi ang kurtina papunta*
*an!"* This hilarious line caused u
the giggles throughout the first h
thing we knew ourselves well e
have sat ourselves at the very last
we came in the theater.

We made our own fun and pep
piece with annotations like, *"At*
*Prinsipe Amante!"* or "Road Runn
Coyote 0." You get the idea. Oc
we would watch Pontzious as he
(Menhuhin conducted the evenin
his body swaying this way and
much energy and passion. The ev
off to a great start.

The universe had other ideas
The first act would have gone s
not for the lady seated in front
seemed to have doused an entir
perfume on herself. Her stench h
unbearable that we had to transf

Ladies and gentlemen, pleas
mind that while overindulgin
grances is not against any theate
rules, it is, however, a crime agai
good taste and the civil liberties
loving people!

## Accidental lullaby

Then came the second act's p
tav Mahler's "Symphony No. 1 i
souvenir program describes the f
this piece as, "Slow. Dragging."

It was. So slow and dragging, in
people (horror of horrors) start
off. One person in our row ev

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# Fall's hot stuff

From page D4

duo for a girlier take on the smoky look. The Hazel Pearl/Gold Duo is perfect if you want a hint of glam but want to focus on lips instead.

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act, that
dozing
started

(embarrassment of embarrassments) snoring! Strangely enough, whoever he was with didn't seem to think it necessary to wake him up.

This seemed to be the case in several rows of seats throughout the theater, causing two ushers to keep going up and down the aisles, trying to find the guilty parties. This would have been fine if they had tried to wake the snoring individuals, but they didn't.

Add to that the annoying squishy sound of the usherettes' skirts as they repeatedly sashayed by, and you can imagine how things were starting to sound.

Too bad for me and my friend. We could no longer stand it and snuck out before the last part of the piece was played. It would have been fun since the program described it as, "With violent movement," but we were afraid that if we had to sit through the snoring and the squishy skirt sounds any longer, we would be the ones causing violent movements.

## Fun for all

Despite the unexpected and unintentional audience participation, the evening was still a lot of fun. The bright beaming faces of the young musicians and their enthusiastic performance were very inspiring. And who would not be awed by the whole concept of bringing together different nations for the sharing of music?

Also impressive was the long list of corporate sponsorships that gave life to the show. Splashed on the posters and souvenir programs were entities like Cathay Pacific (tour patron) and JP Morgan (Manila performance sponsor).

Of note is worldwide superstar Jackie Chan sponsoring AYO scholarships through his charitable foundation. This should pose a challenge to local businesses: to support the performing arts more. Aside from the obvious tax write-offs, helping homegrown talents shine is definitely a noble investment in community relations.

Hey, if Jackie Chan thinks it's cool to support the arts, why can't we?

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*E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com or lora_gahol@yahoo.com*

# Going crazy . . .

From page D1

vin Gaye as his foremost idols.

He's got some of that Latin vibe going on, too. In fact, he owes a lot of his influences to growing up in a musically and culturally diverse family. His Dominican dad owned a radio station that played Spanish music, his Puerto Rican mom loved the "oldies but goodies," and his siblings listened to anything from hiphop and R&B to rock. Hence, one could hear a little bit of everything in his songs. "Variety is what I'm all about... I like being different," he explains.

The 27-year-old musician from Connecticut took classes in Hartford University's Hartt School of Music for five years, finishing with a degree in Music Education.

"If I wasn't [making music], I'd probably be teaching music to kids," he says. He was doing vocals for several bands when he met a producer from LA, who took a liking to Javier's music. They put a demo together and put it in the hands of an entertainment lawyer, and it all blossomed from there.

Although he plays the piano and some percussion, the guitar is his constant companion during shows, backed up by a band that includes his brother Pablo. This time, however, he prefers to get intimate with the Filipino crowd with only his guitar and two of his posse.

"The raw-sounding stuff is what we like to do. Sometimes the whole band sound is great, but we like to be very clear, especially when we're introducing ourselves... not [getting] too much stuff in the way," he says.

## Romantic, sensitive soul

A songwriter as well as a musician, Javier penned the lyrics to his eponymous debut album. There really isn't any need for a fancy title, because the album is Javier himself to the very core. It sings of his ideas, experiences, influences and everything that's important in his life, and everyone can relate to the stories he's telling.

For instance, his first single, the phenomenal track "Crazy," describes the heart-racing, sweaty-palms feeling of being in love. "It's a song about new love, when you first meet someone," Javier explains. "The first couple of things they do can drive you crazy, like when they call you on the phone and you know that it's them, and you're afraid to pick up because you don't know what to say and you wanna sound cool... You know, that whole dance that you do to impress somebody."

Meanwhile, the equally dreamy follow-up "If I Never Get To Heaven" has been gaining some serious airplay both here and abroad. Other swoon-worthy tracks are the Spanish-inflected "She Spoke To Me," the jazzy "October Sky" and "In Your Hands," a spiritually wrenching ode to a loved one, be it God, family or significant other.

So, what drives Javier crazy? "Golf, life, being here [in Manila], being able to share my music," he says earnestly. "Music is life for me... I know there's nothing else that can make me feel as good."

Well, amen to that.

Javier's self-titled album, released under EMI Philippines, is out in stores now.

*E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com.*

# *Win tickets to '13 going on 30'*

SHE Magazine and 2bU! will be giving away pairs of tickets to the special advance screening of Jennifer Garner's "13 going on 30" at SM Megamall's Cinema 10 on Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

If you want a free trip to the movies, e-mail us at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph and tell us who you'll be bringing with you and why. Don't forget to send us your name, age, school/office and contact numbers.

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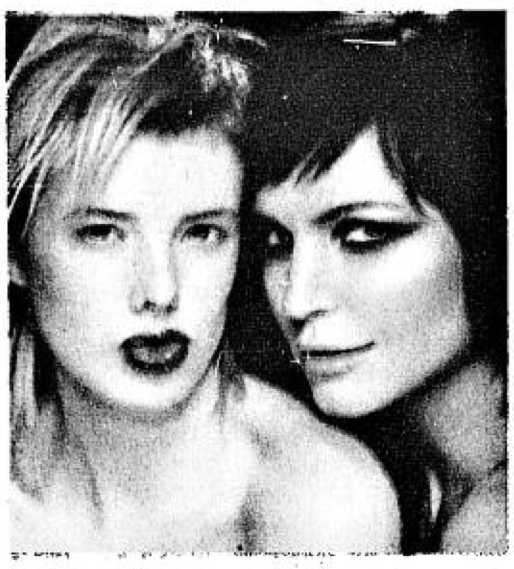
# Fall's hot stuff


HOT lips, sexy eyes

*Lora Gabol*

I LOOKED closely into the mirror just the other day and realized I didn't even have any trace of summer left on me. My tan lines were gone, and my skin had the pallor of someone who hasn't been out in the sun for quite some time.

It could only mean one thing: The "ber" months have arrived.

Once September rolls around, I look forward to two things: Christmas and the coming of the autumn/fall makeup collections of my favorite makeup brands. My pale face is, after all, ready for new stuff to liven it up.

MATTE and shimmer squares

The Body Shop recently unveiled its 2004 autumn makeup trend, Hot Lips, Sexy Eyes, a "seductive" makeup collection loaded with hot new stuff—all limited-edition (better get your hands on 'em, quick!)—to get your pre-holiday face all glammed up.

Take your pick from, well, hot lips and sexy eyes. The Body Shop chose to focus on either to create looks that are dramatic, not overpowering. What will it be for you? A smoldering gaze or a juicy pout? With the product lineup this season, any "face" is possible!

**Matte and shimmer squares.** Hooray for wannabe sun goddesses like me! My days of looking like I've been spending too much time indoors (and I have) are over. Dull complexions instantly get a glow-y boost with this palette of two bronzy earth tones in shimmery and matte textures for a natural-looking luminosity.

The Body Shop has always been the bronzer authority for me, and this new offering did not disappoint. I love that both matte and shimmery squares can be used all over the face, depending on your need. I love using the golden shimmer on the bridge of my nose and on my lids. The effect is subtle yet gorgeous!

**Duo Eye Color.** Smoky eyes have never been this easy! With one handy tube, you get both a highlighting shimmer powder and an easy-to-blend (look, Ma, no brushes!) cream color in a rich, gorgeous shade.

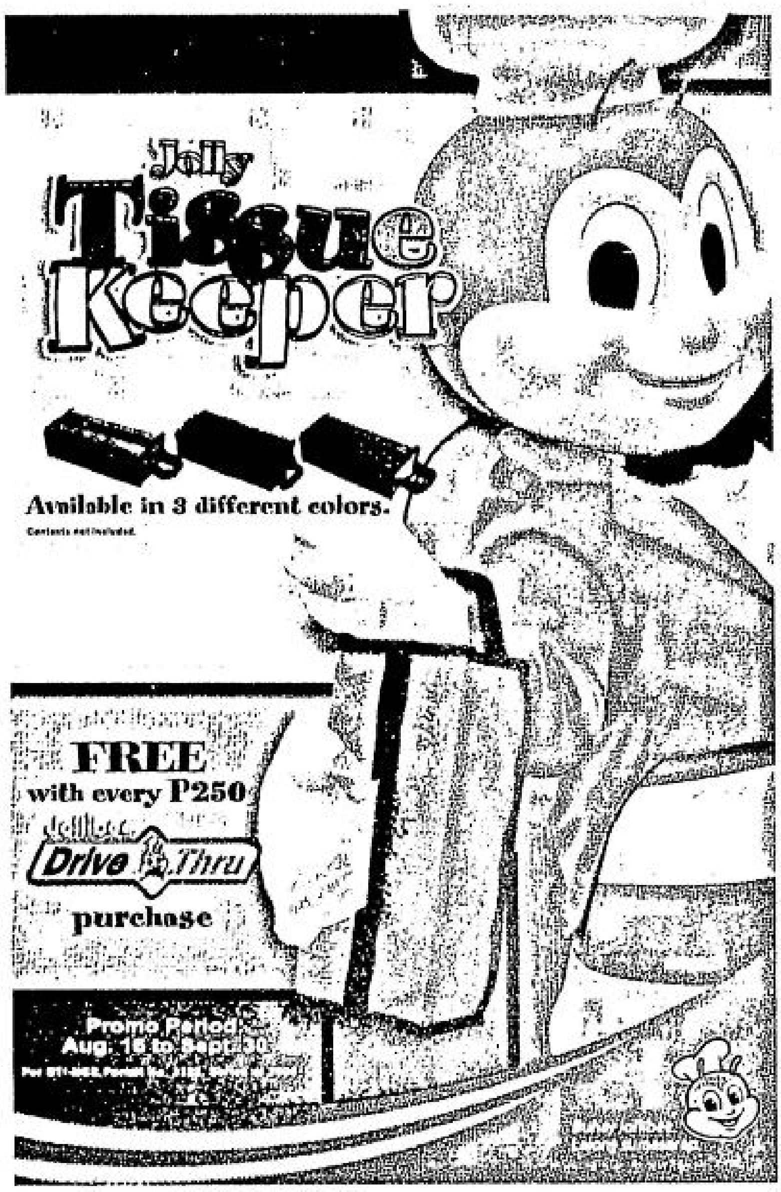
The trick is in blending both products well for amazing contrast. The sheer powder perfectly sets off the dramatic color of the cream formula. Dot your lids with the cream color using the sponge tip and use your ring finger to blend from lashlines to creases (don't rub the color in, just use a gentle, tapping motion).

Start with a small amount, then layer to your desired intensity. Then, apply some shimmer powder on your browbones and on the inner corners of your eyes. Voila! Sexy eyes!

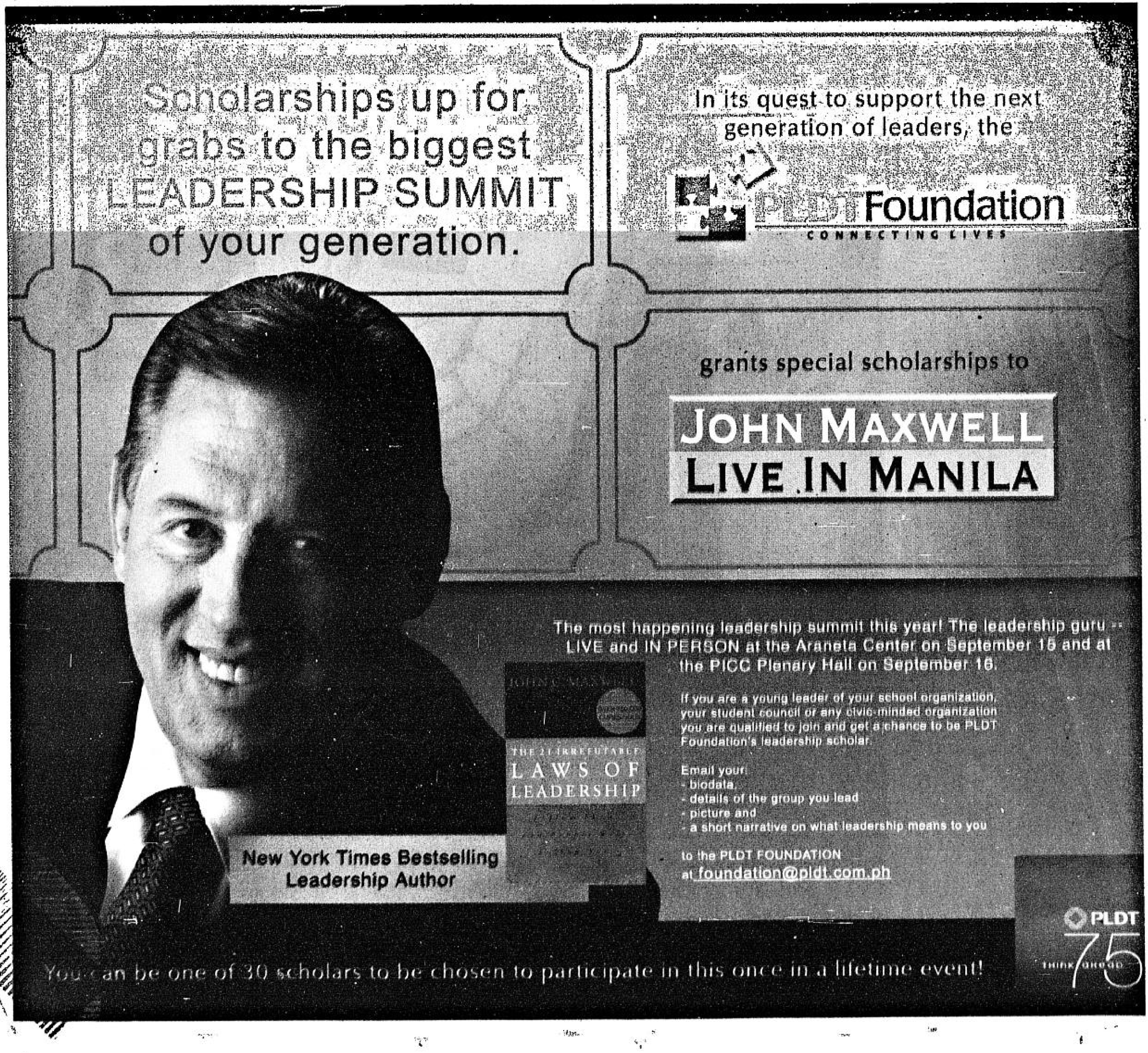
I love the Plum Pearl/Pink Shimmer

FALL'S/ D2

teensshoes
Trets
Trets by TRETORN
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
MAKATI • CUBAO • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • FAIRVIEW • BACOOR • MANILA • ILOILO



Jolly Tissue Keeper
Available in 3 different colors.
Contents not included.
FREE
with every P250
Jollibee
Drive Thru
purchase
Promo Period
Aug. 16 to Sept. 30


Scholarships up for grabs to the biggest LEADERSHIP SUMMIT of your generation.

In its quest to support the next generation of leaders, the PLDT Foundation CONNECTING LIVES grants special scholarships to

JOHN MAXWELL LIVE IN MANILA

New York Times Bestselling Leadership Author

The most happening leadership summit this year! The leadership guru -- LIVE and IN PERSON at the Araneta Center on September 15 and at the PICC Plenary Hall on September 16.

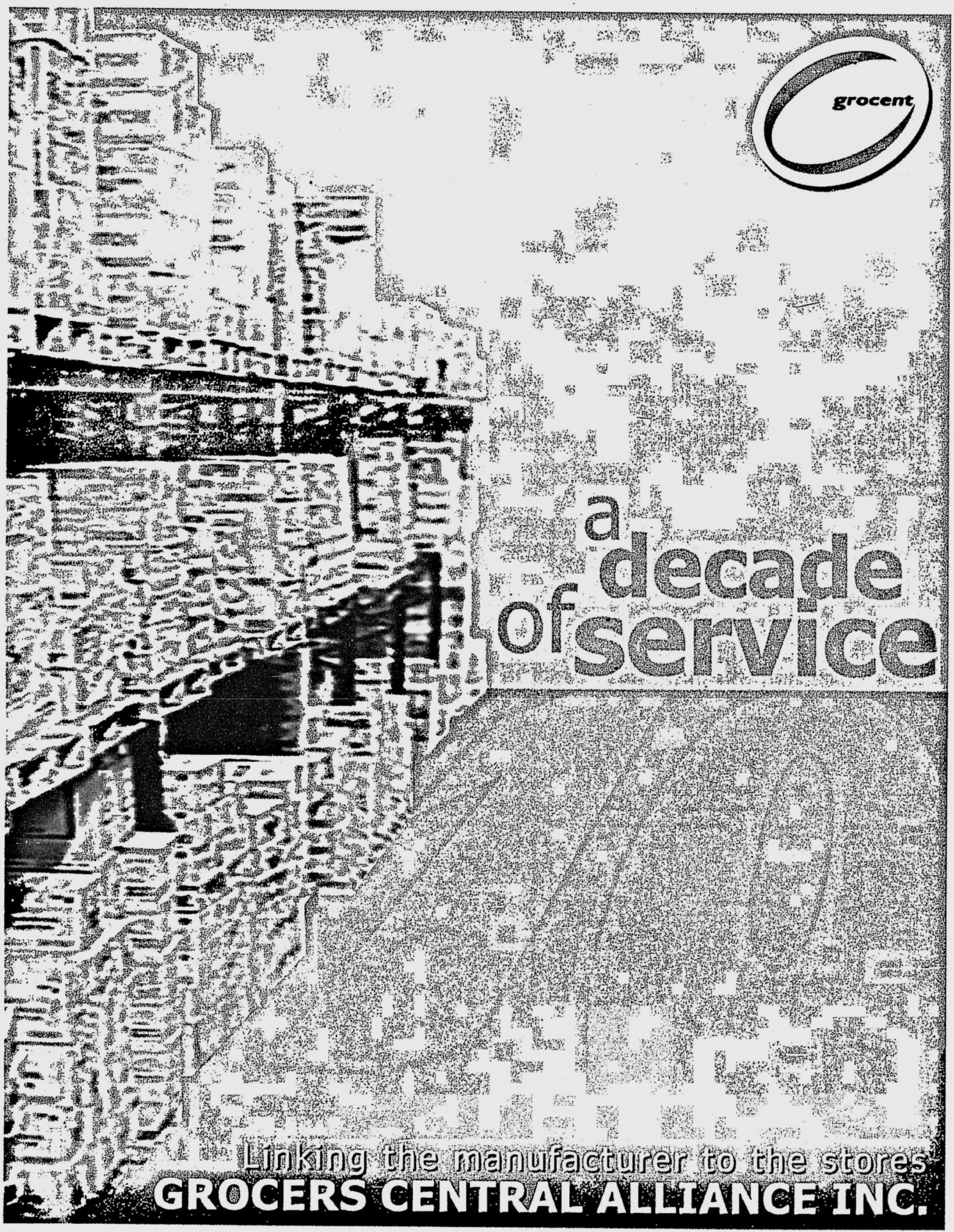
If you are a young leader of your school organization, your student council or any civic-minded organization you are qualified to join and get a chance to be PLDT Foundation's leadership scholar.

Email your:
- biodata,
- details of the group you lead
- picture and
- a short narrative on what leadership means to you

to the PLDT FOUNDATION at foundation@pldt.com.ph

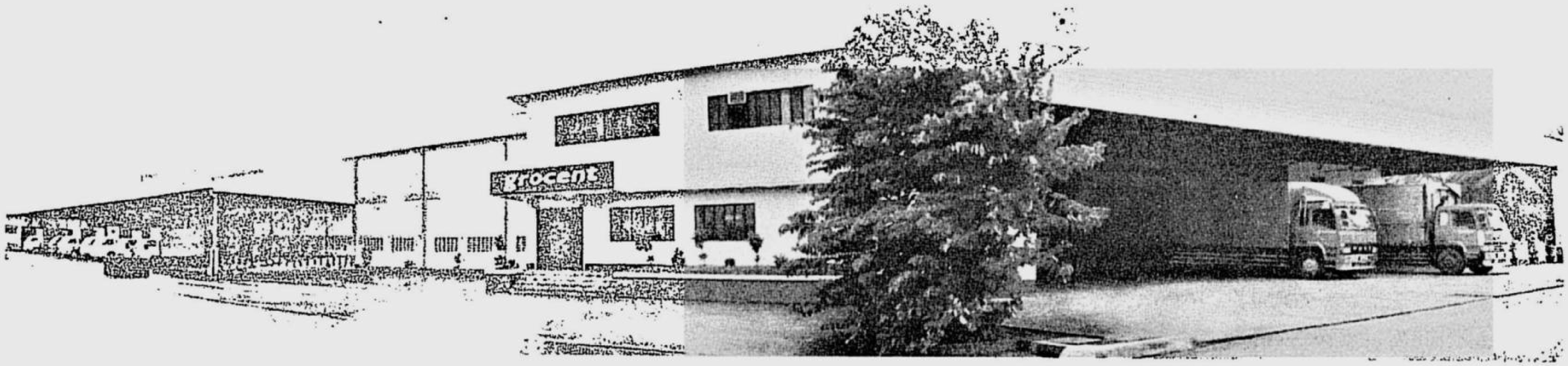
You can be one of 30 scholars to be chosen to participate in this once in a lifetime event!

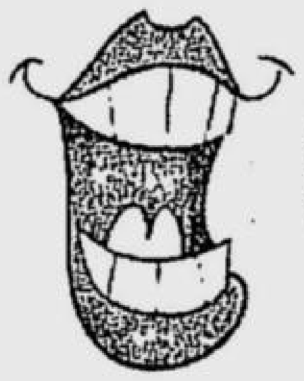
THE 21 IRREFUTABLE LAWS OF LEADERSHIP
PLDT
75
THINK AHEAD


grocent
a decade of service
Linking the manufacturer to the stores
GROCERS CENTRAL ALLIANCE INC.

## Bolder, Bigger and Better grocent!

Grocent's new state-of-the-art warehouse facility and head office spanning over 7,000 sq. m. in area. Located at 1238 Go Soc & Sons Compound, EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City.





Congratulations,

**GROCERS CENTRAL ALLIANCE INC.**

**for a DECADE of service!**

Colgate · Palmolive Naturals · AXION
GARD Anti-Dandruff · Tender Care · Palmolive · AJAX

**CONGRATULATIONS!**
**on your**
**10th year**

Kleenex · Kotex · HUGGIES Diapers · JOY

**Kimberly-Clark** Philippines Inc.

**great value.**

**reliable service.**

**On-time delivery.**

**Constant stock availability.**

**efficient operations.**

**no hassles. no delays.**

**trusted for 10 years.**

Business Simplified.

SAFI

Celebrates
with you on your
10th year!

Heinz

UFC

DATU PUTI
DATU PUTI
DATU PUTI

PREMIUM QUALITY

Lady's Choice

Congratulations
Grocent!

# The Company

We are a Distribution Center that is a cooperative organization of store owners and supplier-partners that make merchandise available to consumers at the right price, quantity, time, and place. Grocent serves as the lifeline that strengthens member stores' relationships with the consumers.

**1994** A group of 7 store organizations ventured into a pioneering central distribution business to pool resources with the objective of achieving economies-of-scale through cooperative-type buying and warehousing activities.

**2001** From Meycauayan, Grocent moved to a bigger–2,000 sq. m. warehouse facility in Balintawak, merging the warehouse and office in one location for greater accessibility. It also adopted new technologies, upgrade of the system and introduced consolidation by using the Portable Telecomputer (PTC) for wireless transmission of data.

**2004** Grocent unveils its new 7,000 sq. m. state-of-the-art Warehouse Facility that is more than three times bigger than the previous one. More system upgrades and operational improvements, breakthroughs and technologies are set to be introduced and adopted this year.

## how it started

# The g-volution Continues...

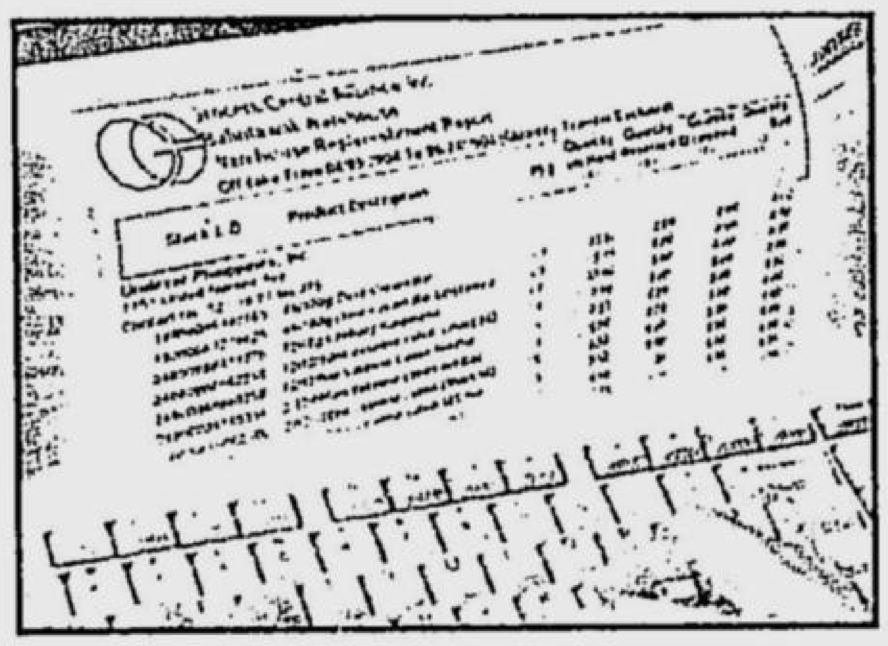
To keep up with the growing demands of the consumer industry, Grocent continues to vigorously implement clear-cut technological innovations to fast-track its distribution system and secure a more sustainable and competitive business environment for its members.

This, Grocent achieves through the introduction of Electronically transmitted Supplier-Grocent-Member transactions and vice versa that speed up the distribution process making possible better management and continuous upgrading of the quality of its services.

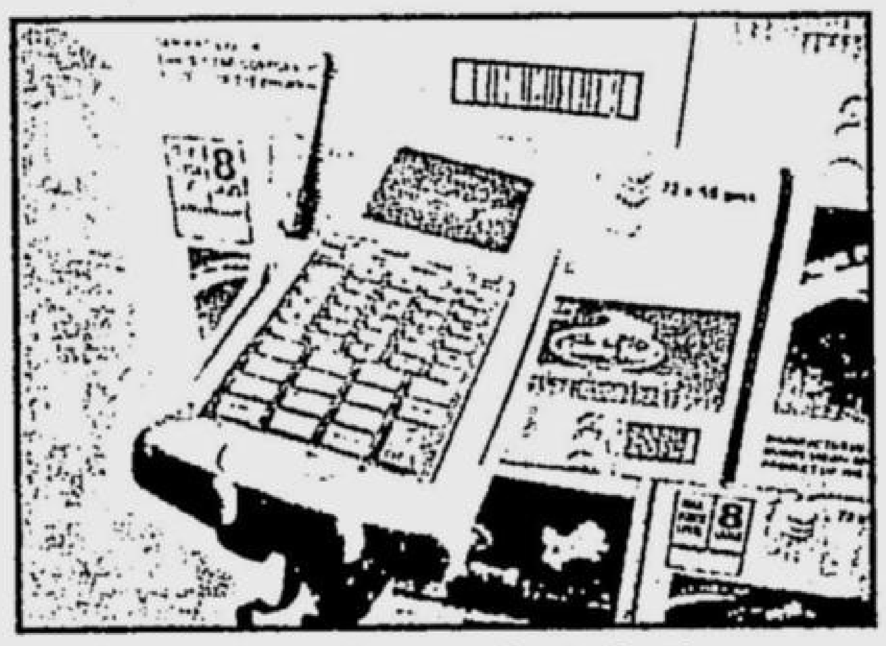
Embracing these developments resulted in an overwhelming response from its members, allowing for both parties to reduce its overhead expenses, save on resources and devote more time to more critical business concerns.

In addition, Grocent will soon expand the Electronic Self-Remittance Payment System through banking institutions for a hassle-free and far more efficient payment facility. Negotiations are on-going with credit card companies for accreditation.

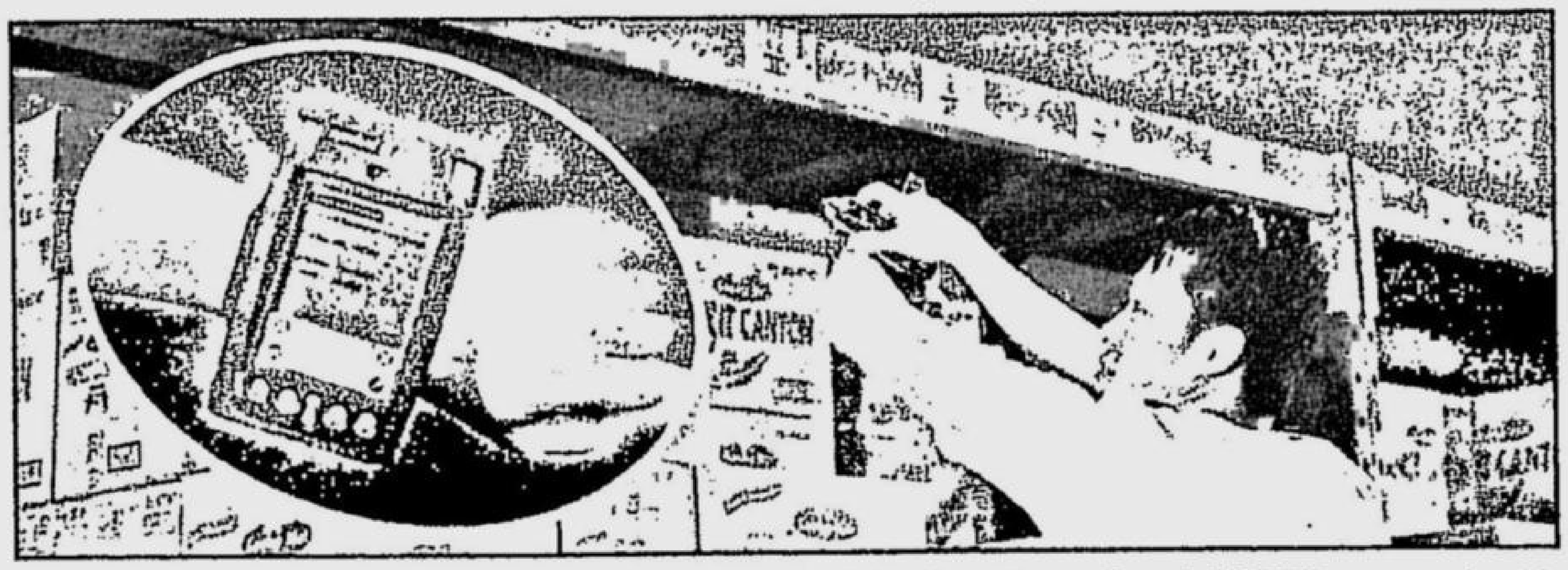
The Landscape is changing. So is Grocent.



**Electronic messaging through the Electronic Business-Extensive Mark-up Language (EB-XML)**



**Storing and moving products in the warehouse through the PTC which updates inventory without the use of desktop computers**



**Paperless picking through the Symbol Palm Terminal (SPT)**

# Grocent and Unilever pioneer on VMI

Grocent and Unilever redefine the meaning of efficiency by engaging in real time, electronic Vendor-Managed Inventory systems.

Vendor-Managed Inventory or VMI is a supply management concept that aims to improve overall supply chain efficiency with specific focus on the flow of goods between manufacturer to distribution center and to its member-retailer stores. It is a process of continuous demand-driven stock replenishment managed by the manufacturer through information-sharing of two systems communicating with each other through a standard language (EB-XML).

VMI is aimed at reducing inventory in the distribution center and at the same time ensuring high service levels to the member stores thus assuring better service to consumers through greater product availability. VMI redefines the relationship between the two partners which enable them to focus on joint business-building activities.

Grocent and Unilever go live on VMI with a common goal of ensuring that products are available in all the stores, all the time.

CONGRATULATIONS!
from
Del Monte ®
Quality

## member stores 10-point advantage

1 **ELECTRONIC ORDERING**
Simplified, systematic and error-free booking.
No irritating misorders. Every member is treated with special care.
All orders received thru the system are processed with dispatch.

2 **KEY ACCOUNT TREATMENT**
Access to better manufacturer/supplier deals and promotions with Grocent's key account status. You are never too small to be given attention.

3 **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUPPORT**
Less difficulty in order forecasting; feedback on monthly store purhase per supplier, undelivered orders, order fill-in rate, and other available information whenever requested.

4 **BETTER INVENTORY MANAGEMENT**
Lower inventory levels, reduced stock-outs, and protection orders for selected products.

5 **TIMELY DELIVERIES**
Orders are served "just in time" within 48 hours.

6 **IMPROVED SALES AND PROFITS**
Constant stock availability and faster turnover.

7 **PRODUCTIVE UTILIZATION OF SPACE**
Smaller warehouse space requirements for Grocent products and increased selling area space.

8 **CASH FOR CAPITAL**
Cash released from lower inventory levels; easier cash management for Grocent products. Improved and better managed cash flows that provide extra capital for store expansion and business development.

9 **SAVINGS IN TIME**
Reduced administrative time needed for invoice and returns processing and check preparation. More time for store management.

10 **CONTINUING RETAIL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION**
Training programs/seminars/workshops on retail operations keeping members updated on recent technologies/trends/and developments in the market.

**The name embodies a culture of passion for service rife with milestones, drama and achievement—fathomed neither by the books nor in number, but by the tradition of excellence it so inspires. GROCENT rejoices ten times over and shares its triumphs, challenges and dreams as they blaze the trail for another decade ahead.**

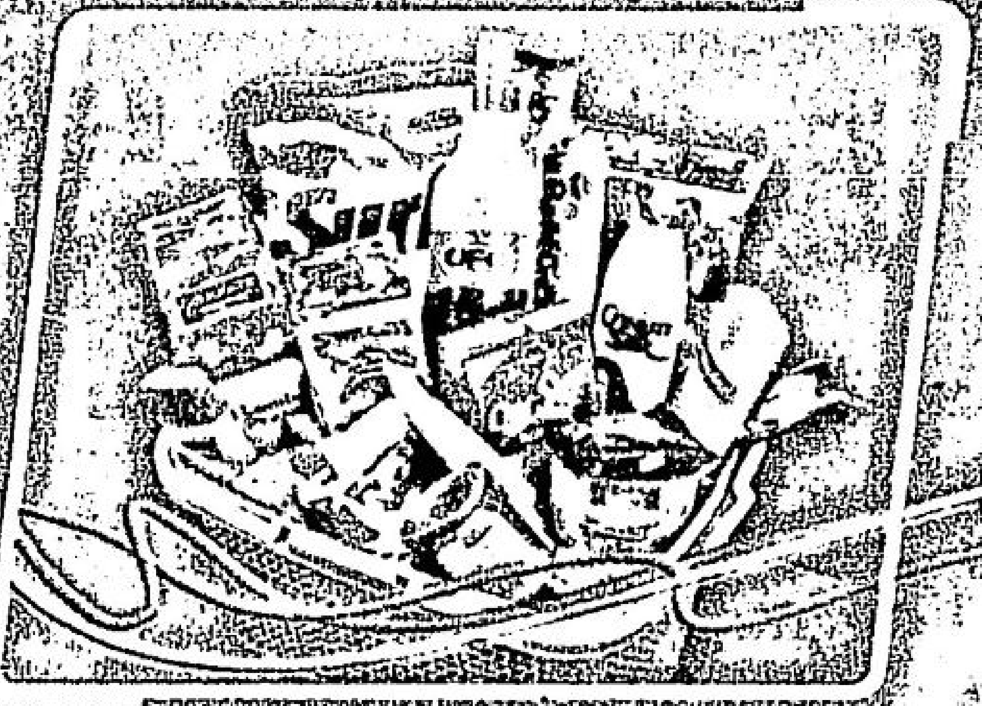
With its state-of-the-art warehouse facility spanning over 7,000 sq. m. of space and 10 years of market experience, Grocent leads the way in championing the interests of its members and their consumers above all. Grocent is committed to help its members seize the opportunities that secure the best values for their consumers and ensure their competitive advantage amidst large-scale competition.

Its growing family of 65 member stores and 33 major manufacturers and suppliers of all kinds of grocery products from food to non-food items derives inspiration from its proud history of working together in bringing the goods right at their communities. This builds trust, shapes consumers' choices and boosts local demand that translates to greater consumer loyalty.

Grocent buys in bulk, warehouses, transports, and distributes merchandise to its member stores through its Electronic Ordering System that guarantees constant stock replenishment at the right price, quantity, time, and place.

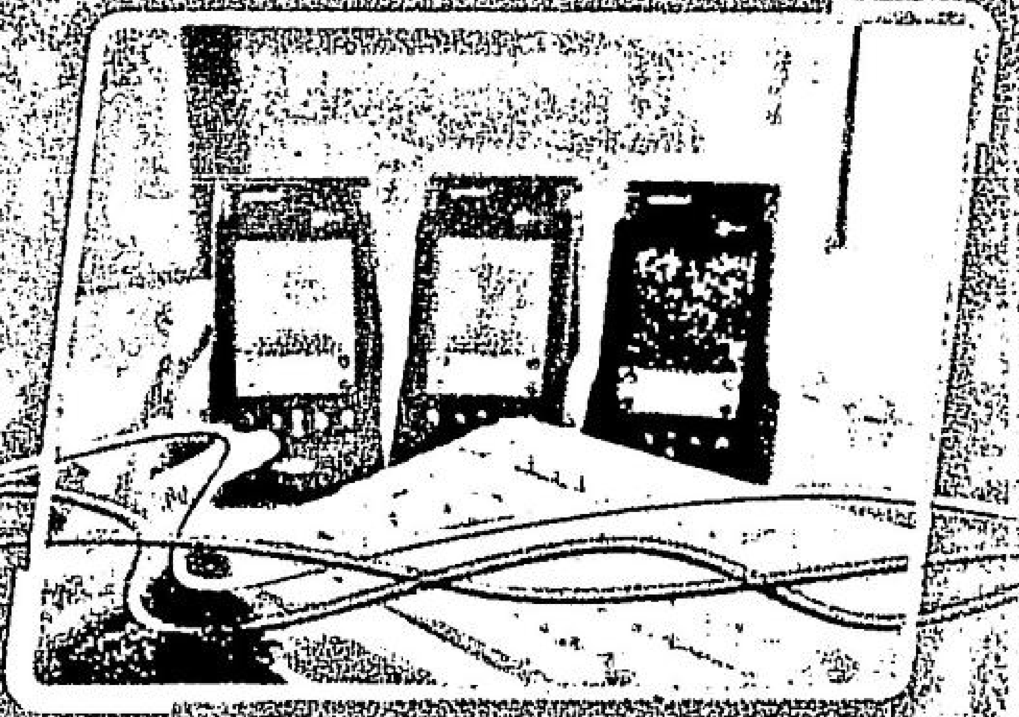
The future of the business may be at a bend with today's economic downturns but the distribution concept remains buoyed as ever. Consumers will always be there to dictate the demand. And Grocent is ready to face the challenge head on.

*From the Manufacturer...*



A variety of brands and choice products ready for delivery to Grocent.

*To Grocent...*



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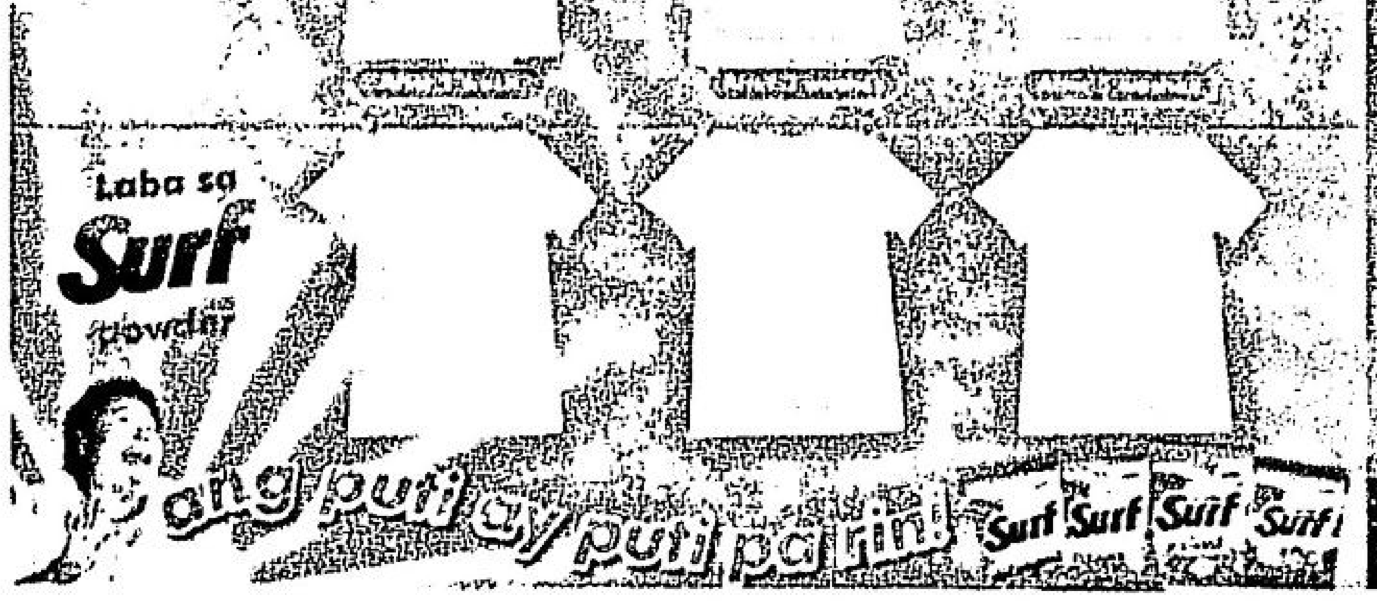
CONGRATULATIONS

from

Unilever



## The New *grocent* Logo:

### Embracing the same Ideals, Answering the Call of Change

In this ever-evolving business environment, if we must continue to adapt to changes, so should the visual language we speak.

To an organization like grocent that has grown far beyond its erstwhile goals, a change in the image to match the innovations it offers today is inevitable.

Introducing the new Grocent logo. It speaks everything that we are.

## TWIGS

Grocent unveils its TWIG
Development Program which po
to its people to continually
competitiveness, excellence,
sustained growth in all facets of

The TWIGS logo is a reflectio
which drive people to work, not
organization, that together they
to become a tree of life.

Through TWIGS, Grocent, in
supplier-partners, conducts tr
seminars and workshops to
abreast of the latest technologie

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grocent

# a decade of service

## warehouse features

- Racking System for storage of goods
- Wireless Receiving and Transfer of goods via PTC (Portable Telecomputer)
- Paperless Picking via Symbol Palm Terminal/Wireless
  Picking can also be done via PTCs
- Break Bulk Capabilities/Bundling/Shrink-wrapping Facilities/Chocolate Room
- Electronic Ordering
- Sharing of transactional information with member stores and suppliers
- And more...

## accredited suppliers 10-point advantage

1 **SHARED, ACCURATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION**
Supplier-partners gain exclusive access to Grocent's database vital for better understanding and management of business.

2 **ONE POINT ORDERING** and simplified booking procedures. Online ordering for those with the capability to link with the Grocent automated ordering system.

3 **ONE POINT DELIVERY**
with palletized option/s. One pick-up point for bad orders of all Grocent member stores.

4 **ONE POINT PAYMENT**
Hassle-free collection of accounts.

5 **DISTRIBUTION MADE EASY**
Grocent does the job for you. Substantial savings for principals. Economies-of-scale enable Grocent to do a better job. Delivers in break bulk too.

6 **QUICK DELIVERY**, fresher stocks and increased product off-takes in member stores. Speedy new product introductions.

7 **MINIMIZED STOCK-OUTS**
Grocent maintains adequate buffer stocks. Management of inventory further enhanced by the introduction of Electronic VMI (Vendor-Managed Inventory).

8 **LOWER BAD ORDER LEVELS**
due to shortened warehouse-keeping time and regular stock rotation.

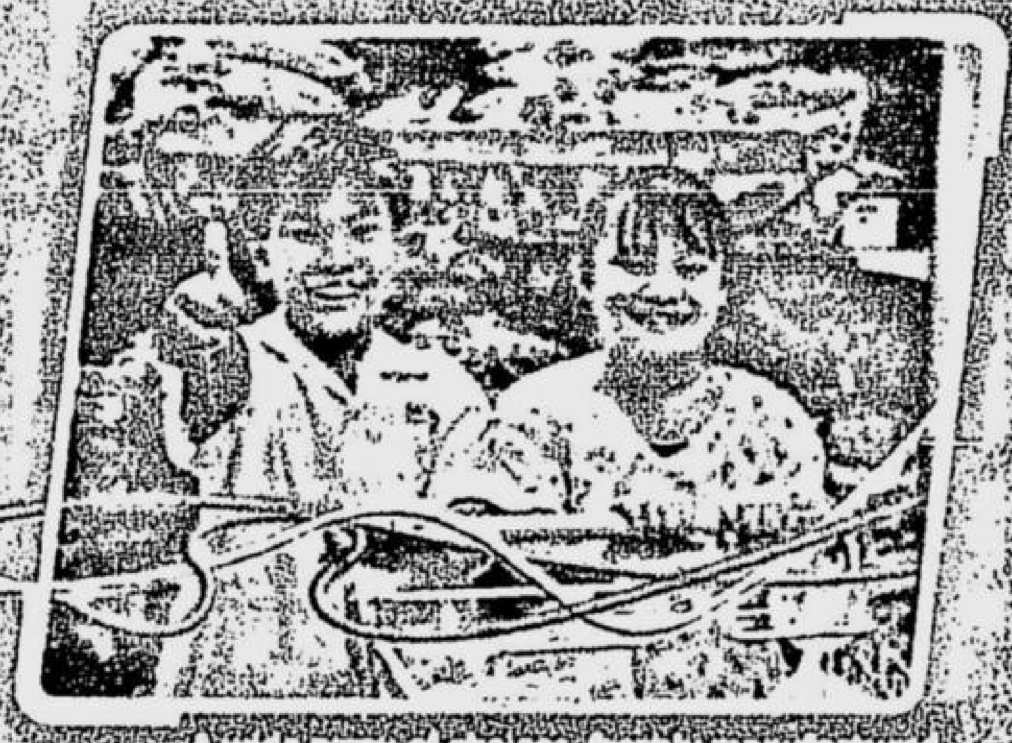
9 **HIGH PRODUCTIVITY**
of sales personnel with Grocent's logistic support. Salesman's role is redefined to focus on store servicing.

10 **ALL OUT SUPPORT and COOPERATION**
in executing store-based business-building programs.

### To Store...

Displays Grocent deliveries with the right price and quantity, and at the right time and place.

### To Consumer...



A wide array of choices, freshly manufactured and high quality goods at its most reasonable prices.

## Together We Inspire Grow & Succeed

S Management
es the challenge
trive for global
success and
the organization.
of the qualities,
for, but with the
nurture and build

cooperation with
ining programs,
keep members
s and trends that
impact the market today. With the theme, "The Enterprising Spirit", some successfully concluded programs sponsored by five of our major manufacturers are as follows: Store Layout and Visual Merchandising by Unilever; Winning Store Strategies by CMC; Fire Prevention & Proper Handling of Items / Products by Kraft; Customer Service...The Service Difference by Kimberly; and Shopping Behavior Study by Del Monte.

More highly anticipated training events are lined-up this year. All with the end-view of keeping the enterprising spirit alive and burning.

TWIGS
TOGETHER WE INSPIRE GROW & SUCCEED

Monde Nissin™

Lucky Me!™

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# We Support the *grocent* Distribution Concept.

one point **delivery.**
one main **source.**

Business simplified

Johnson's baby

BAND-AID

Johnson's PURE ESSENTIALS

Clean & Clear

Carefree

Modess

PUREFOODS

**CORNED BEEF**

This space reserved for your little champion

DUMEX WORLD OF CHAMPIONS

Ready to rule the world!

DUMEX
PRECISION NUTRITION

Experts in Child Nutrition forever

**The Andresons Group Inc.**

citré **shine**

**CONTINUING A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WITH GROCENT**

Dole

QUANTUM FOODS INCORPORATED

Pillsbury

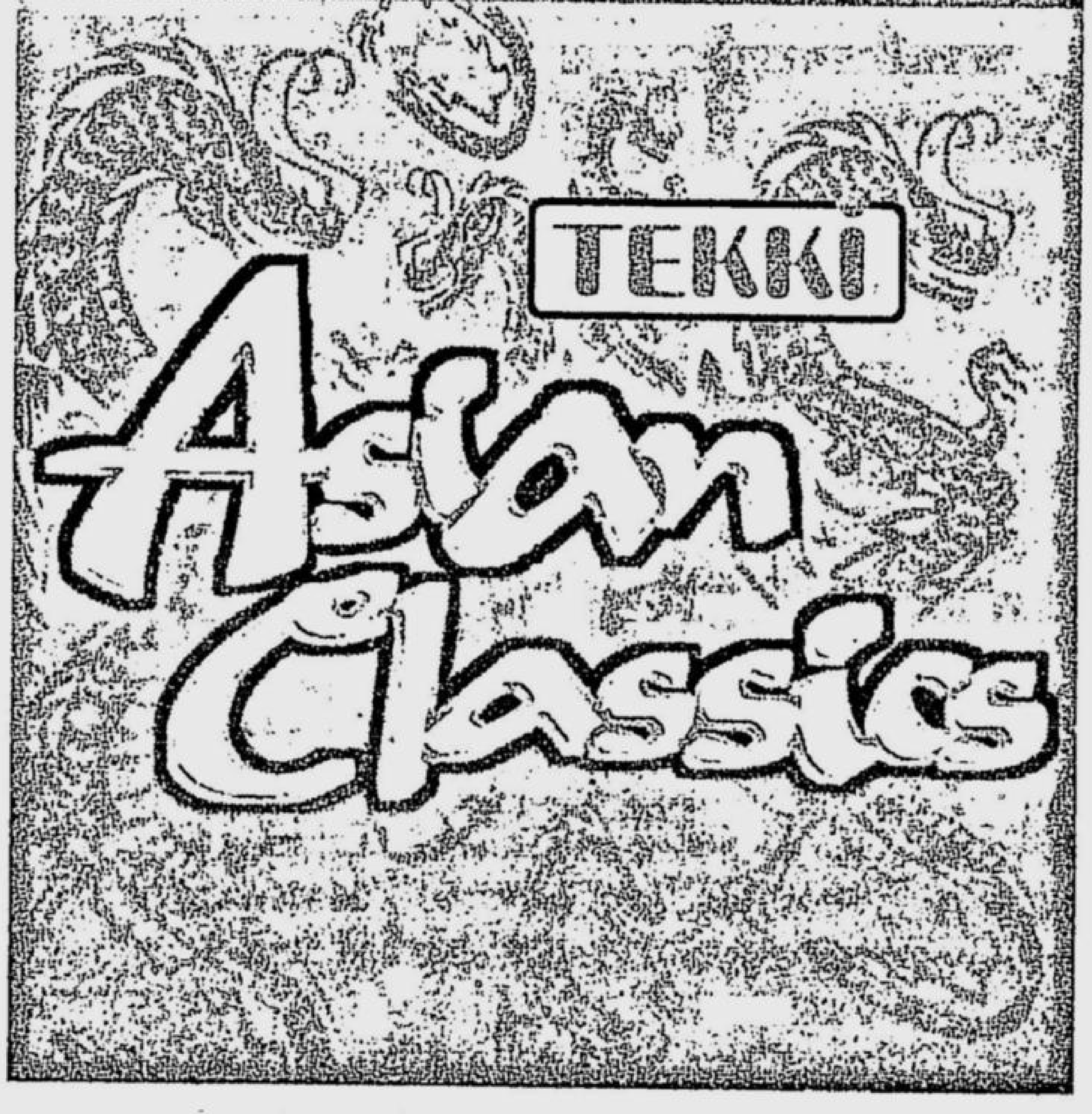
GO GLOB

**Frisogrow**

LIPOVITAN

QUANTUM FOODS INCORPORATED

Mama Sita's



TEKKI

Asian Classics

# "g...It works!"

Member stores and supplier-partners account their actual experiences on how Grocent helped build their businesses and realize tangible results.

In their ten years of service in the retailing business, Grocent has always prepared itself for the future challenges of the business, keeping themselves always one step ahead. Grocent has one of the most advanced warehousing systems in the Philippines as they already have the capability to make transactions thru handheld terminals and can even perform blind picking. We are privileged that they have worked with us in piloting our first fully electronic Vendor-Managed Inventory system. They strengthen their supply chain management capabilities to be able to service their member stores more effectively thus relieving them of the buying function and allowing them to focus on generating more demand and growth for their stores.

Congratulations, Grocent! And more power!

***- Unilever Philippines***

Monde Nissin Corporation...A food company that strives for excellence and adheres to the core values of teamwork, continuous learning and caring service.

Grocent...A company which challenges conventions and reinvents the way they do business through mastery of the tools and technologies of the trade.

We are proud to be partners as we move forward in adding value to our service and realizing each other's potential.

Together...We strengthen our commitment to each other as we build relationships with all parties who contribute in fulfilling our purpose and goals.

***- Monde Nissin Corporation***

Congratulations and Happy 10th Anniversary to Grocent!

Grocent has been instrumental in developing the Del Monte business in the various retail stores it is currently servicing. Its efficient systems and infrastructure allowed us to achieve our distribution objectives and expedite implementation of business-building programs in the trade.

That is why the management and staff of Del Monte Phils. Inc are truly proud to be partners of Grocent, with a relationship that has evolved into both business and friendship over this past decade.

We pray for more success and God's blessings upon Grocent in more years to come as we nurture our partnership with more exciting developments that will continue to mark our presence in the trade.

***- Del Monte Philippines***

In behalf of the San Miguel Purefoods Company and Purefoods-Hormel Co. Inc., I would like to congratulate Grocers Central Alliance Inc. (Grocent) on their 10th Anniversary. A strategic partner in the distribution of Purefoods-Hormel canned products, Grocent continues to provide its members a wide array of Purefoods-Hormel canned products for the consumers' delectable taste. Its ten years of existence is indeed a testament to Grocent's valuable contribution to the industry. As we venture into tough times ahead, Grocent will continue to be our major partner in the distribution of Purefoods-Hormel canned products. More power to the Grocent team!

***- San Miguel Purefoods Company and Purefoods-Hormel Company, Inc.***

Over ten years ago, I heard of the news that manufacturers were moving to key accounts management. Supermarkets, groceries, and similar retail establishments were going to be classified as either key or non-key. Key accounts would be served directly by manufacturers while non-key accounts would be turned over to distributors. After all, that was the logical move. Ninety percent of business volume is generated by ten percent of accounts as experience revealed.

CVC is a medium-sized player and alone, its volume will not be sufficient to shape manufacturer trade practices and policies with regard to it as a trading unit. CVC's membership in Grocent has changed this. CVC benefits from Grocent's position as a key account and key account programs have been cascaded to CVC stores. Some of these benefits are manufacturer product bundling activities, rebates based on store volume targets, and merchandising support. Congratulations, Grocent!

***- CVC Supermarket***

It is Fernando's pride to be one of Grocent's pioneer members. We saw how Grocent grew, braved obstacles, and succeeded through the toughest times over the past decade. And here we are, humbled to grace the page of, once again, a major milestone.

To supermarkets like us that maintain small operations and with very limited retail space, Grocent's warehousing facility allows us to have minimal stock area allocations in our branches. This helps us maximize our store selling area, carry more brands and products, be strongly competitive in our pricing, which translates to greater consumer demand and better services. The definition of big has changed. With Grocent, our two stores can also fight the giants!

It has been a long way since we banded together and took the road no one knew we could ever achieve. And here we are, 65-member strong, with a throng of solid supplier-partners at the helm. The path to our goals may be long and winding, but right now, a halt is well-deserved, to honor all these congratulations!

***- Fernando's Supermarket***

Grocent assures us of sound and reliable retail fundamentals in terms of a fast and efficient Electronic Ordering System and key Retail Management Training and support. It allows us to keep up with the demands of the fast-paced environment, seize more viable business opportunities, and anticipate emerging trends and technologies in the market today.

At the end of it all, Grocent's success, our success, is our consumers' gain and satisfaction. Ten years is just the tip of all great things to come. Congratulations to us!

***- Rempson Supermarket***

To date, Mightee Mart already has 16 branches and growing. Inventory management gets harder and harder to deal with especially where urgency matters a lot. With Grocent, we save huge amounts of time, effort and resources because all transactions are coursed electronically through Grocent's Electronic Ordering System. Purchase orders, which we used to individually send directly to the manufacturers are now sent through Grocent which takes care of everything. We can only imagine the burden we'll experience without them. Indeed, a huge part of our success in the business we attribute to Grocent.

More business..More breakthroughs...and more power to the alliance!

***- Mightee Mart***

BODY NEEDS & BASICS, INC.

Concentrate Detergent
blu STAR

RFM
We Love kids ♡

Join ka na sa festival ng sarap!
CLOVER CHIPS
CLOVER
CLOVER

Leslie's®
LESLIE CORPORATION

Congratulations
on your
10th year!

KRAFT

Kraft Foods

A **cart full of groceries** approached a busy shelf and said,
**"I make your load lighter each day."**
The **shelf** answered back,
**"I know, but I don't seem to notice at all."**

**Right Price. Right Quantity. Right Time. Right Place.**
This powerful combination spells the difference. It is here.
And it is clear. It works wonders for us. It will for YOU.
It's more than an invitation. Call us.

**GROCERS CENTRAL ALLIANCE INC.**
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Tel no. 456-3854 / 362-8371 / 362-8350 Cell no. 0920-5280477 Fax no. 456-3855
E-mail: grocent@pacific.net.ph

**< MEMBER-RETAILERS**

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